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Summary record of the 1st meeting
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Chairman: Mr. Buragira ..... (Uganda)

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05-53310 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Statement by the Chairman

1. **The Chairman** said that the Committee's agenda for the current session was extensive and included many important items. Dedication and diligence would therefore be required if the Committee was to complete its work. In addition to the allocated agenda items, work was also required on the establishment of the Human Rights Council and its workings and membership. The Committee would have a particularly valuable contribution to make in that regard. Some time had been allotted in the programme of work for informal interactive debates on various aspects of the Committee's work, including human rights, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/316. The Bureau was also exploring the possibility of holding an informal interactive event jointly with the Second Committee.

Programme of work (A/60/250, A/C.3/60/1, A/C.3/60/L.1/Rev.1 and L.1/Add.1/Rev.1)

2. **The Chairman** said that the allocation of agenda items to the Third Committee was contained in document A/C.3/60/1. He drew attention to chapter II of the report of the General Committee (A/60/250), which contained guidelines regarding the conduct of work, relating, among other things, to punctuality, length of statements and rights of reply, and adherence to deadlines imposed for the submission of draft resolutions and inclusion in the list of speakers. He emphasized three guidelines, relating to: (a) the number of resolutions and reports requested of the Secretary-General; (b) the length of resolutions; and (c) the need for delegations to allow sufficient time for estimates of expenditures to be prepared by the Secretariat and considered by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee.

3. It was particularly important for draft resolutions, which generally required lengthy negotiations, to be prepared by the principal sponsors as early as possible. Delegations initiating proposals were further requested to advise the Secretary of the Committee accordingly. In view of the volume of the Committee's work, he requested delegations to maintain discipline and pointed out that, in accordance with the decision of the plenary Assembly, the schedule of meetings from 31 October to 4 November would be adjusted in observance of Ramadan.

4. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee), introducing documents A/C.3/60/L.1/Rev.1 and L.1/Add.1/Rev.1, drew attention to developments in connection with the agenda items allocated to the Committee. First of all, as mentioned in document A/C.3/60/1, the General Assembly had decided to allocate item 116 to all the Main Committees for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on their respective tentative programmes of work. The Committee would not, therefore, be holding a formal debate on that item on Friday, 11 November, as previously planned, and no documents would be submitted on the item. Instead, the Committee would take up item 116 on the last day of its work, scheduled for 23 November. Document A/C.3/60/L.1/Rev.1 should be corrected accordingly. Second, with regard to agenda item 68, the reference in A/C.3/60/L.1/Rev.1 and L.1/Add.1/Rev.1 to the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations should be deleted, since that document was a biennial report which would be submitted at the next session. Lastly, with regard to items 62 and 63, a communication had been received from Qatar containing the Declaration of the Doha International Conference on Ageing in View of Present-Day Changes, to be issued under the symbol A/60/377-E/2005/92.

5. **Mr. Xie** Bohua (China) pointed out, with reference to agenda items 64 and 65, that the Permanent Representative of China had submitted a document relating to the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration. He expressed the hope that it would be given due consideration by the Committee.

6. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) confirmed that that document was being processed and would be issued shortly.

7. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to accept the programme of work contained in document A/C.3/60/L.1/Rev.1, as orally revised.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) read out the list of special rapporteurs and independent experts who wished to present their reports at the current

session. He pointed out that the Chairperson of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination would be elected by the Working Group when it met in Geneva from 10 to 14 October 2005.

10. **The Chairman** said he took it that, in accordance with established practice, the Committee wished to approve the list of special rapporteurs and independent experts read out by the Secretary.

11. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 61: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/60/80 and 111)

Agenda item 62: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (A/60/61-E/2005/7, A/60/117/Rev.1, 128, 133 and Corr.1, 138, 155, 156, 290 and A/60/377-E/2005/92)

Agenda item 63: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/60/151 and A/60/377-E/2005/92)

12. **Mr. Sundaram** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development), speaking on behalf of Mr. Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, introduced the *Report on the World Social Situation 2005* (A/60/117/Rev.1), which focused on the theme of inequality. Inequality was inconsistent with the vision set out in the Charter of the United Nations. However, it was becoming increasingly difficult to address and had been exacerbated by various recent developments, particularly globalization. Inequality confounded efforts to eradicate poverty and thus hindered the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It also reflected the persistence of social injustice.

13. Recent trends in inequality were not encouraging. Income inequalities in most countries had widened in recent decades, particularly since the 1990s, and the richest 10 per cent of the world's population received half of total world income. Inequality trends among households at the global level were less clear because of the recent rapid growth in East Asia, especially in China and India, and the relatively slower growth seen in parts of Europe and in Japan.

14. The single most important source of income inequalities was the unequal distribution of wealth at both the national and the international levels. Inequality was also reflected in the global unemployment situation. The number of unemployed people across the world had risen by 31 per cent between 1993 and 2003 to reach 186 million, and the problem of unemployment was exacerbated by deindustrialization, public-sector retrenchment and "jobless growth".

15. Historically, the informal economy had been based on agriculture, but the non-agricultural informal workforce had grown in all regions of the world, particularly with the recent push for greater labour-market flexibility and the corresponding erosion of labour rights. In order to improve conditions in the informal economy, it was important to ensure decent work for all, with the corresponding rights, protection and voice, and to improve the quality of work available, not merely to increase the number of jobs.

16. In recent years, there had been a significant trend towards trade liberalization. However, developed countries' trade barriers continued to harm developing countries. The ability to export helped growth, but there was a need to distinguish between export promotion and trade liberalization in a more general sense. Often, temporary protection was necessary so that new productive capabilities and capacities could be developed. National development strategies were also crucial. For those reasons, trade liberalization should not be reciprocal; special and differential treatment should be preserved, especially for developing countries. There was also increasing recognition that regional and other so-called free-trade agreements tended to widen inequalities among the countries involved.

17. During the twentieth century, the terms of trade had changed to the detriment of developing countries. The prices of primary commodities had declined against the prices of manufactures, especially during the 1980s. The prices of tropical agricultural products had also fallen against those of temperate agricultural products, and the prices of generic manufactures from developing countries had declined against the prices of manufactures associated with strong intellectual property rights, which basically preserved

technological monopolies. Moreover, there was a risk that natural and other resources might not be available for future generations.

18. Because of international financial liberalization, capital flows from capital-rich to capital-poor countries had increased, the cost of finance had gone up and the international system had grown both more volatile and more vulnerable, with less scope for developmental finance. Among the consequences of economic liberalization, he singled out hunger and malnutrition, noting that progress compared unfavourably with earlier decades. Moreover, inequality was being transmitted from one generation to the next because of the rising generation's inability or unwillingness to support older persons.

19. Globalization had brought about some homogenization of production and consumption patterns, which available resources could not sustain. Corporations were wielding increased influence, consumer choices were becoming more limited and unhealthy dietary practices were spreading, leading to a worldwide rise in non-communicable diseases.

20. Violence and conflict were often rooted in inequality, authoritarian regimes, poverty and exclusion, while inequality was a contributing factor in social disintegration and violence. It was therefore necessary to foster democracy as a continual process. Governments had a unique and essential role in that regard, in particular by eliminating institutionalized inequalities, encouraging political participation and embracing diversity as a source of enrichment and empowerment. They needed to improve access to education, health care and social protection, notably by giving higher priority to the financing of key social services, resisting strong pressure to decrease government spending in favour of the private sector. Indeed, Governments not only provided less social protection, but also applied less progressive — and even regressive — tax systems, making once again for greater inequality.

21. After welcoming the increased engagement of civil society in public affairs, at both national and international levels, he stressed the need to address global asymmetries with a view to ensuring an equitable distribution of the benefits of an increasingly open world economy, while seeking to promote democracy, the rule of law and social protection in the interests of greater inclusion, equity and social integration.

22. **Mr. Schölvinck** (Director, Division for Social Policy and Development) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/60/80). It reflected the deliberations at the high-level segment of the Commission for Social Development and centred on three core issues: eradicating poverty, promoting full employment and fostering social integration.

23. The report noted that progress in achieving the Copenhagen goals had been largely uneven and that far-reaching efforts were still needed, in particular to mitigate the negative effects of globalization and address unfavourable trade relationships between developed and developing countries. He referred in that connection to the Declaration on the Tenth Anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development (E/CN.5/2005/L.2) which was significant in that it recognized that the implementation of the Copenhagen Commitments and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals were mutually reinforcing.

24. Turning to the *Report on the World Social Situation 2005* (A/60/117/Rev.1), already discussed by the previous speaker, he stressed that addressing the inequality predicament required a broad-based approach that should be part of any comprehensive development strategy and go beyond approaches centred on economic growth.

25. As for the first report of the Secretary-General on the World Youth Report 2005 (A/60/61-E/2005/7), it provided an overview of the situation of young people around the world under three rubrics: youth in the global economy; youth in civil society; and youth at risk. It highlighted the ever-more complex challenges facing the young and called on Governments to evaluate their youth policies continuously, with the involvement of young people, so as to ensure they remained relevant. To that end, it recommended the development of a set of verifiable indicators and improved synergies among relevant United Nations system activities.

26. The Committee also had before it the Secretary-General's report entitled "Making commitments matter: young people's inputs to the 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year

2000 and Beyond" (A/60/156). One frequently noted observation that it contained related to the fulfilment of basic human rights as a key means of improving the situation of young people. Another was a call for cross-sectoral national youth policies, developed in collaboration with young people.

27. The third report on youth before the Committee (A/60/133), summarizing the findings of a longer report on youth employment by the International Labour Organization, found that no single policy could be applied across the board to all countries and that there was too much concern with supply-side policies and not enough being done to stimulate demand for jobs. Youth employment should not be treated as a target group issue but should be promoted as part of efforts to improve the situation of all age groups within the labour market. He noted the importance of elements beyond national borders that were governed by international practices and policies and referred in that connection to the Youth Employment Network, which had become a forum for building consensus around economic and social policies and for dialogue between young people and policymakers. Serious consideration and support should also be given to the proposal of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change for a major new policy and action-oriented initiative on the links between youth employment and collective security.

28. The Secretary-General's report on cooperatives in social development (A/60/138) focused on the role of cooperatives in poverty eradication, arguing that their social responsibility and concern for the community made them a useful model for promoting the empowerment of the poor and their participation in poverty-reduction strategies. It emphasized, however, that cooperatives needed to adapt to the new realities of the global market place.

29. The tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family was the subject of another report of the Secretary-General (A/60/155), on which it offered several suggestions, including national mechanisms to coordinate policies and practices and the integration of a family perspective into United Nations system activities, including the establishment of focal points.

30. The Secretary-General's report on the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons (A/60/290), dealt successively with the international policy framework on disability; progress towards the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities; initiatives aimed at promoting a disability perspective in development; and actions to improve accessibility at the United Nations.

31. Under item 63, on the follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons, the Secretary-General's report (A/60/151) contained recommendations to promote implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action, including a call for an advocacy campaign, which the Committee might wish to consider in order to underline the situation of older persons in ongoing efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals.

32. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the General Committee would not disconnect social issues and policies from the economic realm when allocating agenda items among the various Committees.

33. **Mr. Leigh** (United Nations Volunteers, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) recalled General Assembly resolution 57/106, which recognized the importance of volunteerism in enhancing social and economic development.

34. The Secretary-General's report (A/60/128) considered progress made in the areas highlighted in that resolution from the perspective of the four goals of the 2001 International Year of Volunteers, namely, recognition, promotion, networking and facilitation of volunteerism. He noted increased momentum in those directions, and important steps had been taken to have the economic contribution of volunteerism better understood and brought to the attention of policymakers.

35. There were, however, notable variations between countries and regions and within the United Nations system. Areas where further effort was required included awareness-raising among policymakers in developing countries and in donor countries and more promotional work, especially in linking up with the Millennium Development Goals, as well as supportive legislative and fiscal frameworks and expanded private-sector involvement. He also emphasized the value of broad-based participation, which entailed access to opportunities to volunteer for all segments of the population.

36. **Mr. Ndimeni** (South Africa) said that natural disasters often had a devastating effect on communities and required massive intervention to assist the

population. He wondered whether there had been any attempt to develop a collective approach to mitigating the effects of natural disasters.

37. **Mr. Schölvinck** (Director, Division for Social Policy and Development) replied that natural disasters were difficult to predict and it was therefore difficult to develop mechanisms to prevent them. From an operational point of view, the provision of assistance and relief following a natural disaster was the responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole, not that of his Division. The tsunami in Asia had affected mostly low-lying tourist destinations; the effects of the disaster on the social inequalities that could be related a tourism-based economy, however, could of course be looked into.

38. **Mr. Leigh** (United Nations Volunteers, UNDP) noted that often volunteers were the first responders in the case of a natural disaster but stressed the need for their efforts to be properly organized and supported. The World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe had stressed the need to promote the use of volunteers from local populations in responding to natural disasters.

39. **Mr. Sundaram** (Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development) stressed that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) was the lead agency in responding to natural disasters. His department had, however, provided advice to OCHA following the tsunami in 2004 and had provided specific advice for disaster preparedness in the period leading up to hurricane Katrina. He also cited the example of Bangladesh, which despite being a poor country, had developed a sophisticated system for disaster preparedness which offered many lessons for the international community.

40. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to begin its general discussion of agenda items 61, 62 and 63.

41. **Mr. Wood** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine aligned themselves with his statement.

42. He said the European Union welcomed the commitment shown by the Commission for Social Development, which, on the tenth anniversary of the Copenhagen Summit, had focused on the implementation of the latter's outcomes and reiterated the importance of a comprehensive approach to social development at the international and national levels based on international cooperation, national action and a global dialogue on social issues.

43. Employment and the promotion of decent work should be fundamental components of poverty reduction and development strategies. Decent work could be a key route out of poverty and an important factor in social inclusion and integration. The conclusions of the high-level segment had stressed the need for employment policies to promote decent work under conditions of equity, security and dignity and the need to incorporate job creation into macroeconomic policy. In March 2000, at the Lisbon meeting of the European Council, European leaders had committed themselves to a 10-year programme of economic reform designed to make the European Union the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world.

44. The high-level panel on employment of the Commission for Social Development had noted that regrettably the link between employment and poverty reduction had not been highlighted in international policy discussions. The international community must recognize that link during international and national policy discussions; full and productive employment and decent work should be a central policy objective for all Member States and an integral part of poverty-reduction strategies aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals and supporting fair globalization.

45. The Millennium Development Goal for poverty reduction would not be achieved by 2015. More and better aid was needed, delivered through real partnerships between donor and developing countries, along with fairer trade and a focus on the special needs of Africa, in order to empower the poor. Special attention must also be given to child- and maternal-health goals, where little progress had been made. A target and indicators for reproductive health would help the international community monitor progress towards many of the Millennium Development Goals. He welcomed the reaffirmation by the millennium review summit of the importance of attaining the goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health, as set out in the Cairo Programme of Action.

46. Each developing country must take primary responsibility for its own developments and prepare an

ambitious national poverty-reduction strategy taking into account the human-rights dimension of poverty, promote good governance and ensure accountability and transparency in public- and private-sector management. Those efforts should be supported by more resources and better development opportunities, including: allocation by donor countries of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for development assistance; innovative financing mechanisms; increased debt relief where necessary; and support for the Doha Development Agenda.

47. In the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the European Union had committed itself to making its aid more effective including by supporting developing countries' own priorities and systems whenever possible. The European Union in May 2005 had agreed to double its aid by 2010, with 15 members committed to reaching the 0.7 per cent target by 2015. Significant steps had also been taken to reduce the debt burden of the most heavily indebted poor countries. That vision and energy for poverty elimination should be carried forward to assist in the successful completion of the Doha Round in December.

48. The European Union attached great weight to social cohesion as well as to economic growth and improving labour markets, that had been made clear in the Lisbon goals. Its vision for Europe was of a Union where everyone could make the most of his or her abilities and where no one was held back by poverty or social exclusion. That would require effective action, while respecting national traditions and social systems, to tackle inequality and in particular to ensure better access to employment.

49. While employment was at the heart of the European Union's social inclusion strategies, many other policies and services were needed to ensure social cohesion. All organizations which could assist in the task of ensuring that social protection, health and education systems supported those who were at risk of social exclusion must be mobilized. Using commonly agreed indicators would increase understanding of the causes of social exclusion and help identify and share good practices with the goal of having a decisive impact on poverty by 2010. He supported the Commission for Social Development's call for universal and equitable access to quality education, the highest possible standard of mental and physical health and access for all to primary health care as part of the effort to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration.

50. He welcomed the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. The European Union looked forward to a fruitful continuation of those negotiations and stressed the need for the continued participation of NGOs in those negotiations in order to formulate a strong and effective convention.

51. The issue of demographic change was of great interest to the European Union. The world was facing an unprecedented demographic transition with the greatest and most rapid increase taking place in the developing countries, with potentially massive implications for all societies. The European Union therefore fully supported the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and was combating age discrimination in employment through a European directive on equal treatment which required Member States to introduce legislation prohibiting discrimination in employment on the grounds of age, sexual orientation, religion and belief, and disability.

52. The European Union also welcomed the Secretary-General's report on follow-up to the implementation of the International Year of Volunteers (A/60/128), in particular his reassurances that the momentum built up in 2001 continued to foster a vibrant volunteer movement. That momentum was reflected across the European Union in initiatives taken by Member States in partnership with community organizations. The European Union noted, however, the Secretary-General's assessment that there were wide variations at the country and regional levels and agreed that further effort was needed to sustain and extend progress so that the potential of volunteerism was fully realized in all countries.

53. He expressed support for the forthcoming plenary Assembly discussions on youth, specifically the event celebrating the tenth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. The European Union looked forward to participating actively in those discussions. Youth policy was gaining increasing prominence in the European Union, and the European Youth Pact had been adopted at the spring 2005 session of the European Council, as part of the revised Lisbon

strategy focusing on growth and jobs in recognition of the importance of improving the education, training, mobility and vocational integration and social inclusion of young Europeans.

54. The European Union welcomed the Commission for Social Development's work on the implementation of the Copenhagen Summit and its commitment to pursuing follow-up to the Summit. The Commission provided a key forum for taking forward the international social development agenda in the United Nations system, and the European Union was committed to ensuring that the Commission fulfilled its role effectively and strengthened its voice as an authoritative, relevant and respected United Nations body. It would continue to play a full and active role in further discussions on reform of the Commission in February 2006.

55. **Mr. Neil** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recalled that implementation of international social-development commitments remained a priority for the developing world. The 10-year review of the Copenhagen Summit by the Commission for Social Development had provided an opportunity to assess the level of implementation. The relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/60/80), noted the mutually reinforcing nature of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Millennium Declaration, especially in relation to the three core priorities of the Copenhagen agenda: the eradication of poverty, the promotion of social integration and the attainment of full employment.

56. The results of poverty reduction efforts had been mixed, but he was convinced that the Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty by half by 2015 remained achievable. That possibility justified the focus of international support on Africa, in particular the sub-Saharan region.

57. The obstacles to achieving the Copenhagen goals were rooted in the lack of an enabling environment for social development. The main obstacles were: natural disasters; the spread of infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS and malaria; security concerns, including armed conflict, occupation, terrorism, and unilateral coercive measures; the unequal opportunities created by globalization; and continuing inequities in the global economic system. He noted, however, that except for natural disasters, none of those obstacles was beyond the international community's ability to change.

58. Social-development goals nevertheless could not be achieved without adequate resources and he stressed that realization of the commitment of 0.7 per cent of GDP for official development assistance could make a significant difference. Domestic resource mobilization for investment in social infrastructure must, however, complement official development assistance; mechanisms such as cooperatives could play an important role in promoting the eradication of poverty, fostering social integration and creating employment. He therefore welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on cooperatives and social development (A/60/138) and the recommendations contained therein.

59. Employment levels globally had fallen short of expectations. The *Report on the World Social Situation 2005* indicated that between 1993 and 2003 the number of unemployed had risen. Youth unemployment constituted a particular challenge and should be a focus of the 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

60. The review of the Copenhagen outcome in February 2005 had provided a welcome opportunity to interact with representatives of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the International Labour Organization on the issue of social development. Such opportunities for dialogue between the various stakeholders in social development could lead to tangible outcomes.

61. He welcomed the Secretary-General's report on follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/60/151) and efforts at the national level to implement the Madrid Plan of Action. However, the report also noted the tendency to address the situation of older persons from a "humanitarian" perspective, while ignoring their potential to contribute to national objectives. He stressed the need for national commitment and international cooperation to implement the Madrid Plan of Action, particularly with regard to national capacity-building. To that end, Member States should support the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing in order to meet the needs of particular States.

62. Two points were particularly important for the Group of 77 and China. First, poverty-reduction policies must address the root causes of poverty and

global policies should promote international and bilateral cooperation, including the transfer of technology and the sharing of experiences and good practices taking into account the gender and age dimensions of poverty. Secondly, efforts must be intensified to help countries achieve social-development goals by providing technical and financial resources and to reduce their debt burden in order to free up resources for social programmes.

63. **Ms. Rahantabololo** (Madagascar), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), expressed concern that the international community was still far behind schedule in realizing the goals of the Copenhagen Summit. Poverty had continued to increase, and the ranks of the unemployed and underemployed continued to grow, especially in the developing countries, while progress towards social integration remained painfully slow and uneven. The technology and resources nevertheless existed to make the right to development a reality and to free the human race from want. That could only be achieved, however, through concerted efforts to promote poverty eradication and the goals of full employment and social integration.

64. In March 2004, SADC had launched a Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan which prioritized social development as a core concern; operational frameworks over 5- and 15-year periods had been developed. The three major intervention areas were: developing and sustaining human capabilities; developing positive cultural values, attitudes and practices; and utilization of human capabilities. Furthermore, in 2004, SADC had established a Ministerial Forum to better coordinate social-development efforts, in keeping with the social dimension of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

65. Those efforts had led to increased human development, with some Member States achieving annual growth rates of 7 and 8 per cent of GDP, which would contribute greatly to meeting the target of halving poverty by 2015. In some countries, primary-education enrolment and adult literacy had increased markedly. That demonstrated that SADC member States, in spite of limited resources, were committed to social development.

66. Daunting human development challenges nevertheless remained. Against a background of low economic growth, humanitarian crises, HIV/AIDS and limited resources, the human-development index for the region had dropped, especially with regard to per capita income and life expectancy. Severe drought also threatened the lives of nearly 10 million people. While thanking the United Nations system and other donors for the invaluable assistance provided for drought relief, she stressed the urgent need for greater assistance.

67. SADC recognized that young people were a force for development, peace and democracy, yet millions of young people lived in poverty, were illiterate, unemployed or living with HIV/AIDS. The international community's commitment to realizing the goals of the World Programme of Action for Youth must therefore be strengthened and implemented, with the participation of youth.

68. Guided by the African Union Policy on Ageing of 2002, SADC was committed to protecting the health and well-being of older persons and guaranteeing them an enabling environment. Lack of basic health care and nutrition remained a pressing problem and the elderly were often overwhelmed by the extra burden of orphaned grandchildren and home care for family members largely because of HIV/AIDS, poverty and conflicts. Despite a lack of resources and capacity, however, the Community remained committed to successful implementation of the Plan of Action on Ageing, in cooperation with the United Nations.

69. She expressed support for the speedy conclusion of an international instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of people with disabilities, which was long overdue. She also underscored the need to better integrate economic and social policies in order to promote social development and root out poverty.

70. **Mr. Mayoral** (Argentina), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that political and development strategies should focus on youth, family, the elderly and persons living with disabilities. With respect to youth, the Rio Group hoped that the forthcoming ten-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth would inspire a considerable number of young delegates to participate in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly as part of the national delegations. With regard to the family, the Rio Group would continue its efforts to enhance the well-being of the family in its multisectoral and coordinated public policies. The Rio Group fully supported the Secretary-

General's recommendation that it should broaden its cooperation with the United Nations system in order to strengthen national capabilities and integrate the family perspective into the activities of the system.

71. The Rio Group reiterated its commitment to the involvement of the elderly in society and to the dissemination and implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and agreed with the Secretary-General that the situation of the elderly should be taken into account in future initiatives.

72. The Rio Group supported the drafting of an international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, which was currently in the final stages of negotiation. The convention would be the first human-rights instrument of the twenty-first century and required special creativity on the part of the United Nations, particularly in the areas of monitoring and cooperation. The Rio Group also supported in general the conclusions in the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and deemed it imperative to incorporate the perspective of disabilities in all development and cooperation programmes.

73. The Rio Group considered that the 2005 World Summit Outcome provided a base from which the United Nations must continue to work, and committed itself to participating in the development and implementation of the mandates contained therein.

74. **Ms. Che** Ying (China) said that the achievement of the development goals in areas such as the elimination of poverty and the promotion of economic and social development required broad cooperation at the global level. Although encouraging progress had been made since the adoption of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, disease, poverty and unemployment still hindered the development of many developing countries. Developed countries should do more to assist the developing countries by reducing and eliminating debt, expediting the transfer of technology and abandoning trade protectionism.

75. The United Nations had made important progress in the field of social development, particularly with regard to vulnerable groups. The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002 had been extremely useful in that it served as a model for the international community in dealing with the situation of older persons and the question of ageing.

76. The Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities had made substantial progress and had attracted the universal attention of Governments and non-governmental organizations. The Chinese Government believed that the Convention would provide an effective legal guarantee of the rights and interests of persons with disabilities and hoped that all parties would work for an early conclusion of the negotiations.

77. **Mr. Chaudhry** (Pakistan) said that progress in achieving the core objectives of the Copenhagen Summit had been uneven. Countries needed to increase their efforts to eradicate poverty, boost employment and achieve social integration. Other challenges included eliminating the asymmetries of globalization, creating new financial resources through increased official development assistance, resolving armed conflicts and increasing investments in the social sector.

78. In Pakistan, poverty reduction remained the primary objective of the Government's reform agenda, incorporating a more focused human-development strategy and a central role for provincial and local governments.

79. Although the macroeconomic reform agenda had yielded unprecedented growth of 8 per cent of GDP during 2004-2005, there was a need for social integration of vulnerable segments of society. With that in mind, the Government had promoted the distribution of State land to landless tenants, easy availability of credit, and relief to drought-affected areas.

80. On the international level, development remained the highest priority for a large majority of Member States. It was therefore necessary to build upon the recommendations of the 2005 World Summit regarding ODA targets, debt relief, increased aid and the special needs of Africa.

81. **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt) said that the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development had played a key role in promoting the issue of social development. Since the Copenhagen Summit, the right to development had come to be accepted as a basic human right and the link between social and economic development had

been strengthened. However, if the Copenhagen objectives of eliminating poverty, disease and unemployment were to be achieved, it would be necessary to mobilize political will and strengthen international cooperation. Egypt was pleased that the international community had renewed its commitments at the World Summit and hoped that they would be translated into policies and programmes. Unfortunately, little progress had been made in the areas of debt mitigation for middle-income countries, climate change and the transfer of technology.

82. With respect to the occupied Palestinian territories, Israel's policy of closure and blockade had undermined social development, particularly regarding the rights of women, children and the family, and had aggravated socio-economic conditions in Palestinian cities.

83. At home, Egypt was striving to create a social, economic and political climate that would facilitate the implementation of an integrated strategy based on partnership between government bodies, civil society and the private sector. Health and education services had been upgraded; life expectancy had risen; and the number of women in the workforce had doubled. Egyptians were permitted greater freedom of expression, and the Constitution had been amended to allow citizens to elect a president by popular vote and choose from a variety of candidates. Egypt was still seeking, within that strategy, to combat poverty by focusing on reduction of unemployment, support for small and medium enterprises, youth programmes and support for older persons and the disabled.

84. **Mr. Cumberbatch Miguén** (Cuba) said that economic and social development had suffered an outright setback during the previous year and that the United Nations had failed to reaffirm the outcome of its latest summits and conferences. Poverty continued to be a chronic problem; external debt had not been decreased; the HIV/AIDS pandemic had not been checked; millions of children died every year from preventable diseases; and the trade barriers that prevented developing countries from accessing important resources for their domestic social agendas had not been removed.

85. The Cuban Government remained fully committed to protecting its workers and guaranteeing the pensions of retired persons and the disabled, and had allocated two thirds of the 2005 State budget to upgrading education, health services, social assistance and scientific and technical research. The Government had achieved much in the field of social development, despite the continuing economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States. In fact, the United States policy regarding Cuba constituted the main obstacle to the achievement of Cuba's social-development goals.

86. The Cuban Government was of the opinion that international cooperation on social development should be adapted to the programmes and priorities of the recipient nations and to the local culture. Cuba itself was actively assisting rural populations in Africa, Asia and Latin America by providing health-care professionals, scholarships, literacy consultants and other services, without exerting political pressure or demanding economic privileges.

87. In conclusion, Cuba called upon the Member States to reaffirm the objective of achieving equitable development and to make every effort to change the current international order wherein the wealth of the world was owned by a privileged few.

88. **Ms. Erard** (Switzerland), speaking on item 61, said that, although her Government welcomed the progress made since the Copenhagen Summit and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, greater efforts were needed to ensure that the objectives were fully attained. One of the priorities, as outlined at the 2005 World Summit, was full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people. In order to attain that objective, education and training must be accessible to all persons, young women in particular. Rights at the workplace, social protection and social dialogue should likewise be guaranteed. Another priority was the social integration of vulnerable groups; Switzerland hoped that Governments would strive to develop policies guaranteeing them basic services, employment and health services.

89. With respect to the fight against poverty, it was important to take into account each country's level of development, intensify international cooperation and adopt monetary and budgetary policies that offset the negative effects of globalization on social development. Switzerland strongly favoured an approach integrating economic, social and environmental policies, at both national and international levels.

90. Finally, it was vital that various entities such as the World Bank and the International Labour Organization, regional commissions, civil society, the private sector and Governments continued their cooperation to attain the objectives of social development.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations A/C.3/60/SR.2

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
21 October 2005

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Third Committee

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 3 October 2005, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Butagira ..... (Uganda)

Contents

Agenda item 61: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*)*

Agenda item 62: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation due to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*)*

Agenda item 63: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*)*

* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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05-53319 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 61: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/60/80 and A/60/111)

Agenda item 62: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/60/61-E/2005/7, A/60/117, A/60/128, A/60/133 and Corr.1, A/60/138, A/60/155, A/60/156, A/60/290 and A/60/377-E/2005/92)

Agenda item 63: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*) (A/60/151 and A/60/377-E/2005/92)

1. **Mr. Ocampo** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the recent world summit had acknowledged the interrelated nature of the world's social, economic, environmental and political threats and challenges, as well as the need to address their root causes with resolve and determination. That interrelatedness explained the enduring importance of the series of major United Nations conferences and summits which had been held during the past 15 years and through which Governments and development partners had constructed a United Nations development agenda: a comprehensive set of internationally agreed development goals on the economic, social and environmental aspects of development.

2. The Millennium Development Goals were a prominent expression of that agenda, and the decisions of the Committee would play a crucial role in efforts to maximize the impact of the decisions taken at the various conferences and summits. An integrated response to the interrelated problems of social development, gender equality and human rights had increased the chances for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people to join the ranks of those who enjoyed greater opportunities.

3. The question of the global rise in inequality should pervade all aspects of the work of the United Nations, as it offered a vivid reminder of the urgency of concrete action across the entire development agenda. Although it had bypassed several developing regions, especially sub-Saharan Africa, the global decline in absolute poverty represented a significant achievement. Access to education for girls was showing improvements, and it had become apparent that there was a strong correlation between social spending on health and higher levels of life expectancy. However, those advances were being eclipsed by the increasing inequality between and within countries, as outlined in the recent report on the World Social Situation 2005, contained in document A/60/117.

4. Weak employment generation had brought an increase in informal employment, and the widening gaps between skilled and unskilled workers — and between the formal and informal economies — had contributed to persistent and deepening inequality worldwide. Poverty and inequality were being transmitted from one generation to the next, with the result that large segments of the world's population were excluded from opportunities to improve their lives.

5. Because the global rise in inequality had accompanied the economic reforms of the past two decades, it was hard not to conclude that the two were related, at least in part. In many cases, reforms had not yielded the expected benefits but instead, had resulted in rising unemployment, growing income gaps, and inadequate social protection. Those increasing inequalities had slowed economic growth and contributed to higher rates of violent crime. They also included a gender dimension, which was often reflected in the denial of human rights and the practice of discrimination.

6. The situation required a broad approach which targeted hunger and inadequate income while simultaneously waging a much wider war against inequalities in access to health, education and personal security, as well as in opportunities for employment and political participation. The 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen had helped to place that approach on the United Nations development agenda, while the resulting Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action had sought primarily to make development more people-centred and to integrate the various objectives of economic and social policies.

7. In commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Copenhagen Summit, earlier in 2005, the Commission for Social Development had stressed the need to realign current efforts with that fundamental approach.

Furthermore, the World Summit had made a firm commitment to make full and productive employment and decent work for all a central objective of national and international policies and development strategies. Similarly, the recent 10-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Programme for Action had stressed women's lack of access to secure employment, decent work, and appropriate, affordable, and quality health care, and had reaffirmed that gender equality was key to advancing development.

8. Providing opportunities for all social groups to contribute to society remained one of the cornerstones of social integration and socially inclusive development. The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing provided the framework for national and international efforts in that regard. The emphasis was now on supporting capacity-building and the mainstreaming of ageing into policy formulations. The sixtieth session of the General Assembly would also mark the tenth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, which represented the first global blueprint for effective national action for and with young people. The World Summit had also recognized that the sustainable development of indigenous peoples and their communities was critical to the fight against poverty and hunger and for social inclusion. In that regard, the Summit had produced an agreement to present for adoption, as soon as possible, a final draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

9. The power of the United Nations development agenda lay in its comprehensiveness and its integrated approach, but that power had yet to be fully unleashed. It was time to demand that priority should be given to more effective social investment efforts in all national development strategies. At the same time, more decisive action should be taken to achieve the eighth goal of the Millennium Declaration: developing a global partnership for development, especially in the key areas of aid, debt relief and trade. It would also be necessary to build stronger institutions to support the development of integrated policy frameworks. Those institutions should serve to encourage social actors to speak for the disenfranchised, make the social effects of economic policy highly visible, and effectively mainstream social objectives into economic policymaking.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

United Nations A/C.3/60/SR.3

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

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Third Committee

Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 4 October 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Butagira ..... (Uganda)
later: Mr. Anshor (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Indonesia)

Contents

Agenda item 61: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*)

Agenda item 62: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*)

Agenda item 63: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*)

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05-53464 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 61: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/60/80 and A/60/111)

Agenda item 62: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/60/61-E/2005/7, A/60/117, A/60/128, A/60/133 and Corr.1, A/60/138, A/60/155, A/60/156, A/60/290 and A/60/377-E/2005/92)

Agenda item 63: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*) (A/60/151 and A/60/377-E/2005/92)

1. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) said that his Government remained deeply committed to advancing social development, in line with the Copenhagen commitments and the development goals. Bangladesh had the highest primary school enrolment rates in the developing world and had already achieved gender parity in both primary and secondary schools. Poverty rates had fallen from over 70 per cent in 1971 to less than 42 per cent in 2004, and child mortality had been substantially reduced. Although much had been achieved, it was clear that society could not be fully transformed unless the problem of impoverished families was addressed. It was therefore urgent that the international community should make a concerted effort to end poverty, which affected 500 million people in South Asia alone.

2. His delegation was pleased to note that the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities had made significant progress in drafting the convention. However, it felt that the developing countries were not technically and financially prepared to become parties to it. For its part, Bangladesh had enacted the Disability Welfare Act in 2001 and had taken many pragmatic steps to improve the quality of life of the disabled.

3. Ageing remained a problem for both the developed and the developing countries. Bearing in mind the importance of capacity-building at the national level and of mainstreaming the elderly into national development agendas, the Government had instituted several programmes to provide old-age allowances, old-age homes, and allowances for widows and abandoned women. According to the World Youth Report 2005, South Asia had the largest number of youth living in poverty. Bangladesh had developed several programmes to improve their situation, such as vocational training, self-employment, and youth involvement in community development.

4. **Mr. Saeed** (Sudan) said that, despite all the efforts made nationally and internationally in the ten years since Copenhagen, the gap remained vast between objectives and achievements in counteracting poverty and unemployment and ensuring social integration. The international community should do more to support regional efforts for economic and social development and should display the political will to overcome all existing obstacles and to honour any commitments given. The Sudan welcomed the 2005 World Summit's reaffirmation of the importance of the Millennium Development Goals and its call for alleviation of the burden of debt on poorer countries in order to spur their development. In promoting development, the Sudan sought to emphasize the importance of the individual.

5. A peace agreement to put an end to the war in the south of the Sudan had been reached and should assist in promoting stability and security. The country sought regional peace and endeavoured to promote the conditions to stabilize the situation. His Government supported both the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, which, if implemented fully would ensure greater social integration, and the efforts undertaken by the meeting in Qatar to address the problem of ageing. His Government also endorsed the Secretary-General's report on the measures taken since the preceding session to follow up the Second World Assembly for Ageing.

6. The discussions of the Third Committee should focus on social development and reaffirm the commitments given to end poverty and unemployment, ensure social complementarity and define priorities at the national and international levels.

7. **Ms. Okagaki** (Japan) said that her delegation fully supported the outcome document of the Commission for Social Development, which reaffirmed that people must be at the centre of development efforts. Japan believed that the United Nations needed

to encourage national ownership, based on a human-centred approach, in partnerships between developing countries and the international community. Her Government attached great importance to the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and had taken several socio-economic measures to tackle the problems of its rapidly ageing society, including continuous employment for persons up to the age of 65, re-employment of the elderly, reform of the pension and medical-care systems, and grants for educational and social activities.

8. With regard to persons with disabilities, her delegation had been participating actively in the negotiations of the Ad Hoc Committee concerned with the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and had promoted cooperation with non-governmental organizations. In 2004, the Government had amended its disability law to include articles on the prohibition of discrimination against persons with disabilities and to allow the latter to participate more fully in policymaking. With respect to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the World Youth Report 2005 had identified several new issues which needed to be addressed. Japan hoped that the upcoming plenary meeting would provide an opportunity to focus on those issues. Lastly, Japan wished to reaffirm its commitment to creating a secure society where all people would be protected and empowered.

9. **Mr. Effah-Apenteng** (Ghana), expressed regret that the goal of creating a just social system for all had not yet been realized. Sub-Saharan Africa, where poverty, malnutrition, unemployment, under-employment and conflict had led to a significant shortfall in health and educational services, continued to present the world with the most formidable and daunting development challenges. It did, however, seem that Africa was at a turning point: stronger leadership was emerging, African countries were assuming ownership of their development programmes, and economic and social performance was improving.

10. His Government had adopted measures aimed at accelerating growth, poverty reduction and human development and strengthening governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law. In addition, it was pursuing policies to stimulate economic growth by strengthening the private sector, expanding non-traditional exports, investing in infrastructure, making agriculture more productive and improving access to education, health and economic opportunity for the poor and disadvantaged, including women and the aged.

11. The Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy was aimed at implementing a comprehensive set of programmes to support growth and poverty reduction between 2003 and 2005. In 2004 his Government had increased spending in the social sector and strengthened basic services for the poor with a view to meeting the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. At the end of December 2004, 30 per cent of total Government expenditure was linked to direct actions for the poor, focusing on basic human development services and employment-generating activities.

12. In the educational sector, the free, compulsory and universal basic education policy ensured that primary education was widely accessible and free schooling had been extended to cover kindergarten beginning in the 2006/07 academic year. Primary school enrolment had increased to 86 per cent in the 2003/04 academic year although some gender disparity still existed, with enrolment rates for girls and boys being 83 per cent and 89 per cent respectively in 2003-2004. Government efforts to reduce the financial burden on poor parents, including grants, and provision of uniforms and rations, appeared to be working since the basic education completion rate had risen to 78 per cent in 2003-2004.

13. In the health sector, the previous fee for services system, which had denied many people access to medical care, had been replaced by a national health insurance scheme in order to meet the basic health-care needs of Ghanaians. In order to support youth, his Government had established the National Youth Fund aimed at encouraging young people to start their own small enterprises. The current focus was on advancement of the President's vision of human resources development through employment, income generation and poverty reduction. He hoped that the 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond would highlight measures to guarantee the well-being of youth, the world's future leaders.

14. After expressing renewed support for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the African Union's Regional Plan of Action on Ageing, he noted that despite recent efforts by the United Nations system

to support national and regional initiatives, the lack of capacity-building, implementation strategies and technical cooperation was hampering implementation and renewed support for action on ageing was required. He stressed the need to safeguard the family and support international initiatives aimed at improving the situation of families and expressed support for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee responsible for drafting a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

15. In recognition of the fact that significant national poverty reduction could not be achieved without accelerated economic growth, his Government aimed to increase the productive capacity of the poor and vulnerable and had allocated approximately 32 per cent of total Government expenditure for poverty-related programmes. It had adopted a people-oriented social development policy aimed at expanding employment, reducing poverty, eliminating inequality and promoting access to health care and education.

16. Success in building social safety networks and promoting social development depended on sustainable external support in the form of an improved external economic environment or increased capital flows. His delegation therefore fully supported the effective integration of economic and social policies into macroeconomic policies at the national and international levels in order to strengthen social development. It stressed the need for the international community to further the achievement of social development goals through the provision of technical and financial resources and the elimination of the debt burden, thereby allowing developing countries to redirect resources to social goals. Lastly, he called for speedy implementation of the measures aimed at meeting the special needs of Africa, as advocated in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which would facilitate equitable economic and social development in a globalized world.

17. **Mr. Chernenko** (Russian Federation) said that, development was threatened not only by the challenges posed by globalization but also by poverty, natural disasters and pandemics. Any one of those problems could escalate into conflict, thereby threatening life and security. The Russian Federation agreed that security, human rights and development were interdependent and hoped that the decisions taken at the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development would give a new impetus to international cooperation in the social sphere.

18. The development of effective social policies was a key element of the Russian Federation's economic reform. The market-oriented reform of social entitlements had been completed and new reforms had been planned in the areas of health, education and housing. Other priorities of the Government included reducing poverty and increasing wages for the public sector. With respect to demographic policy, one of the main objectives was to strengthen the role of the family and provide support for young families in particular.

19. The Russian Federation was pleased that substantial progress had been made in the negotiations with respect to the proposed convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. It also supported the drafting of an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which was of a particularly urgent nature, given that conflict situations often arose from a failure to respect those vital rights.

20. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria) said that universal awareness of the relevance of social issues and the threat they could pose to international security had made social development a universal concern and had induced the international community to adopt the Programme of Action in favour of the most vulnerable social sectors and population groups at the World Summit for Social Development in 1995. The goals of the Copenhagen Programme of Action, consistent with the Millennium Development Goals, aimed to eradicate extreme poverty, achieve full employment, promote social integration, guarantee equality between men and women and afford access to quality education and primary health care through national efforts and international cooperation.

21. The recent 10-year review of the Copenhagen Programme of Action by the Commission for Social Development had shown that the imbalances among and within regions and countries, far from being redressed, had been exacerbated, with some countries posting considerable economic growth and others seeing their social conditions deteriorate. Those imbalances had been underscored in the *Report on the World Social Situation, 2005*, which had placed much of the blame on globalization.

22. In truth, only a handful of countries had enjoyed the benefits and sources of wealth created by

globalization, while the majority had felt its negative effects on areas such as employment and wages and, consequently, on their citizens' social situation. The integration of a social dimension into their national macroeconomic policies had not produced the expected results, precisely because of the restructuring policies and unfair competition occasioned by globalization. Clearly, what was now required, in addition to a grasp of the impact of globalization so as better to curb its negative effects, was support for States' national efforts through equitable cooperation that would redress the balance of globalization and distribute its benefits more fairly and evenly.

23. Those imbalances were most profound between developed countries and Africa, which lagged far behind in terms of development and growth and where social conditions were least favourable. The spread of poverty, persistent unemployment and under-employment and inadequate health and education services were the realities described by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), in its efforts to fill the gap between Africa and the developed countries, had, in consultation with the heads of State of the African Union countries, identified practical actions for integrating Africa into the global economy and attaining its social objectives. However, even with the financial resources of NEPAD the African countries' collective and individual resources were too meagre to implement those actions; and he therefore called for international solidarity in support of Africa's progress. Concessions that the developed countries could make to Africa included meeting their official development assistance (ODA) commitments, debt cancellation and the conversion of debt into equity investments.

24. Algeria, for its part, was determined to meet its Copenhagen commitments and had integrated the social dimension into its macroeconomic policy. It had thus gradually improved its citizens' living conditions. It had reduced poverty by identifying the poorest population groups and safeguarding and promoting social solidarity. Innovative measures had succeeded in reducing unemployment while education — free and compulsory — was guaranteed for everyone. In its efforts to improve the social situation of its citizens, Algeria not only ensured equality between men and women, but also catered to all vulnerable groups through specific intersectoral programmes for expediting their integration and participation in society on the same footing as other citizens.

25. The heads of State attending the 2005 World Summit had renewed their trust in the Organization's pursuit of the purposes and principles enshrined in its Charter, among them the guarantee of economic and social development, as well as their commitment to enhance international solidarity and cooperation in that area. So, too, had the Commission for Social Development in its conclusions, as reflected in document A/60/80. Algeria fully supported those conclusions and hoped that action would give practical effect to the commitments made at the World Summit and meet the expectations of peoples.

26. *Mr. Anshor (Indonesia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

27. **Mr. Alday** (Mexico) said that his Government had developed a social policy that viewed poverty as an integral, multidimensional phenomenon embracing people's entire life span. Recent efforts had focused on improving social and poverty indicators through an innovative and efficient social policy based on a strategy that effectively targeted the causes of poverty, put people at the centre of development and enhanced their capacity to live life to the full. It had thus made significant progress in meeting the main Millennium Development Goals of reducing poverty and hunger, providing universal primary education and reducing the gender gap in education, and reducing the incidence of malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

28. Mexico had actively participated in the regional and international events to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and had exchanged experiences on current challenges, including poverty and domestic violence, faced by families belonging to different regions and cultures. His Government assigned priority to framing public policies with a family and community perspective, but imposed no single family model. To that end, it had been preparing a Mexican Family Diagnosis as a tool for analysis and policy design and implementation on the basis of specific information. It also set great store by the validity of and respect for the international commitments undertaken with regard to the family.

29. On the subject of persons with disabilities, his delegation would continue to give momentum to the negotiation of the international convention so that it could soon see the light of day as a result of an

inclusive process. Mexico supported the proposal contained in document A/60/290 to identify ways of promoting a disability perspective in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and United Nations development activities. While concurring on the need for synergy in monitoring the implementation of the United Nations disability-specific instruments, his delegation did not think that the proposal to review all mandates older than five years to see whether they were still genuinely needed was in itself the best way of achieving it. Rather, the report (A/60/290) should have provided a more in-depth analysis that could help States with their decisions and policies for implementing the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and contribute to progress in respect of the rights and equality of opportunities of such persons.

30. Regarding young people, Mexico supported the comprehensive approach of the World Youth Report 2005 (A/60/61) and concurred with its proposals. The Government, mindful of the strategic role of young people in the country's development, was taking action to improve their living conditions in accordance with the World Programme of Action for Youth. Mexico had now joined those countries that included young people in their delegation to the General Assembly so as better to give voice to the views of that important sector of society in a multilateral external policy forum.

31. Turning to the subject of older persons, he said his Government was generating favourable conditions for improving their quality of life, with the focus on job creation so that they could be productively employed as long they wished, thus fulfilling the commitments of the World Assembly on Ageing. Also, in accordance with the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, Mexico encouraged the integral human development of its older persons, promoting activity among the elderly without discrimination, establishing instruments and mechanisms for their well-being, acknowledging and using their skills, consolidating their autonomy and independence and enhancing their social worth. The National Institute on Ageing had been coordinating the various institutions devoted to care of the elderly, applying cross-cutting principles of joint responsibility, with the participation of civil society and even of persons over 60 years of age.

32. **Mr. Gzual** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the objectives of the Copenhagen Summit had not been achieved, as was evident from document A/60/80. A blatant imbalance existed in international social and economic policies, which the international community must redress, since otherwise international instability would threaten future peace and security. Growing populations, climactic change and natural disasters had profoundly affected agricultural productivity. The problems of food and hunger were likely to continue, with developing countries most severely affected because they were least able to overcome them. Because of increased travel, there had been an unprecedented growth in the incidence of infectious diseases, including AIDS, SARS and avian influenza, which had had a negative impact on social and economic development in developing countries.

33. Developing countries were concerned at the lack of enthusiasm shown by their developed partners in facilitating technology transfers for development purposes, which left them marginalized and unable to make social and economic progress. They required access to markets to help them achieve development objectives. Domestically, they should focus on education and health, giving due attention to the gender perspective; establish a culture of peace, tolerance and dialogue to prevent civil and ethnic conflicts, and resist monopolies imposed in the name of globalization.

34. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya stood by the commitments it had made at the Copenhagen World Summit and had adopted measures and policies designed to implement them. By deploying human resources in an appropriate way, the Government had prioritized educational and training programmes and the provision of free health-care services, social security for widows, the disabled, the elderly and those without a provider.

35. **Mr. Mercado** (Philippines) said that, since genuine development was people-centred, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals, his country would continue to pursue policies consistent with the overarching social development objectives embodied in the major United Nations documents. In addition to the President's 10-point development agenda for the coming six years to fight poverty and build prosperity for most Filipinos, the Government was also intensifying its implementation of the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan for the period 2004-2010 with more focused action strategies that provided a blueprint for sustainable

socio-economic development and embodied the country's anti-poverty and overall framework.

36. Despite the Government's significant achievements, there was an urgent need for support for efforts to build an enabling environment for social development in order to achieve the three core priorities of the Copenhagen agenda and a need to integrate social policy into economic policy in order to foster overall development. He therefore called on the relevant actors to ensure that macroeconomic strategies matched the social dimensions of development. Serious efforts must be made to help countries achieve social development through the provision of both technical and financial resources. It was crucial that the developed countries should meet their ODA commitment of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for reducing poverty in the developing countries.

37. However, other ways of funding social development must be sought since ODA alone could not be the main source. In that regard, he urged developed and international financial institutions to give serious consideration to the proposal made by his country at the recent high-level segment of the Commission for Social Development that they should convert 50 per cent of an agreed portion of indebted countries' debt-service payments into equity investments in recipient countries to be channelled towards social development and other programmes to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, thus directly creating and supporting social programmes as well as eliminating the debilitating debt burden and freeing up national funds for investment in such programmes. Such a plan would hasten achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, primarily by halving the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.

38. Recognizing the rights of different sectors of society, especially vulnerable sectors, the Philippines continued to pursue policies aimed at a "society for all" and to seek ways of enabling those sectors to participate actively and productively in society. The various plans and programmes adopted a strategic approach to ensure respect for the rights of all people and their equal participation in the development process. Genuine and equitable growth could be achieved by ensuring that the benefits of development programmes reached even marginalized sectors, promoting decent and productive employment and making for a truly inclusive society.

39. Increased cross-border movements signalled the need for effective international cooperation for managing that aspect of globalization and for broader understanding of the linkage among globalization, development and migration as it related to migrants' increased exposure to risks of all sorts in a foreign country. The global phenomenon of migration required greater attention and measures to promote and protect the human rights of migrants. With reference to the statement contained in the executive summary of the *Report on the World Social Situation, 2005*, to the effect that higher migration streams engendered and exacerbated migration, while poverty and economic factors remained a major driving force of global migration, he urged the utmost caution regarding claims that migration per se caused inequality. The report, however, had gone on to indicate a positive statistical correlation between migrants' remittances and poverty reduction, thus underscoring the contribution of migration to addressing inequality, especially in developing countries.

40. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his Government accorded due importance to achieving the objectives of Copenhagen and Copenhagen +5 and fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals. It welcomed the Secretary-General's report in document A/60/80 but wondered why it overlooked the catastrophic effects of foreign occupation and armed conflict on social development.

41. His country had recently introduced compulsory education, health services and vaccination campaigns across the entire country, resulting in marked decreases in infant and maternal mortality and an increase in life expectancy to 72 years. The National Plan for 2001-2005 had, as one of its goals, the activation of women's role in family and society. The Syrian Authority for Family Affairs had been established to accelerate improvements in the Syrian family and to promote the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

42. To achieve development and provide employment, especially for the young, steps had been taken to revive investment and reform the educational system. Legislation had been introduced with the aim of creating job opportunities and establishing a public body to combat unemployment. Legislation had also

been introduced to protect the rights of the elderly. A national plan for their health care had been established and Syria sought to implement the objectives of the Second World Assembly for Ageing. Disability was accorded special importance. The first regional conference on the Special Olympics for those with mental disabilities had been convened recently in Syria, concluding with a series of recommendations for a strategy to deal with such disabilities.

43. The next development plan, 2006-2010, would concentrate on human development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. However, the continued occupation by Israel of the Golan and the resulting drain on Syrian human and financial resources made social development difficult because of the deterioration of economic, humanitarian, and social conditions in the Arab occupied territories.

44. **Mr. Kim** Il-Suk (Republic of Korea) said that social development was not only a social, political and economic goal but also an ethical imperative. Social development did not mean merely increased wages or employment; all three pillars of social development — poverty eradication, full and productive employment and social integration — must be pursued. Although significant progress had been achieved since the World Summit for Social Development, much more needed to be done.

45. He expressed support for the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development adopted by the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session and stressed that true social development was people-centred, which implied empowering people and generations so that they could lead better, healthier, more productive and more satisfying lives; that in turn would help create a more just, equitable and inclusive society.

46. He expressed concern, however, that while poverty eradication had, quite rightly, been treated with urgency, the two pillars of employment and social integration had to some extent taken a back seat. In trying to increase employment opportunities and access to resources, it was imperative that the unfair distribution of assets, services and opportunities likewise be addressed. His Government, for example, concerned at the growing youth unemployment rate, was implementing programmes to provide high-quality jobs to help young people develop skills and acquire experiences that would benefit others. Furthermore, in both the private and public sectors, women had taken on greater responsibilities and policies to promote women's employment and participation would continue to be implemented.

47. Varying degrees of economic progress within and among nations and regions had exacerbated social exclusion and put strains on families, societies and institutions. Armed conflict had also had a debilitating effect on social integration. Those factors made it more difficult to put people at the centre of social development, and groups with special needs, such as women with disabilities, became increasingly marginalized. Their rights must be protected, and he therefore called for the inclusion of a separate article on women with disabilities in the proposed international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

48. Another social group which required attention was the elderly. His Government had enacted a law regarding the care of the elderly living at home and was implementing plans not only to provide adequate care for senior citizens but also to harness their vast experience and knowledge for the benefit of society as a whole in order to help the elderly lead more satisfying and productive lives. The Ministry of Health and Welfare had been reorganized to better coordinate policies regarding the ageing population and a presidential commission on ageing and the future was devising long-term policies to take into account various social and economic needs and changing global trends and developments. Continuous efforts to incorporate and mainstream social integration issues involving the elderly and children in particular, were of the utmost importance.

49. **Archbishop Migliore** (Holy See) said that increased longevity called for a rethinking of the role of the elderly in society and in the development process. It would be politic to create a wide range of opportunities that used the potential, experiences and expertise of older persons so that they could remain connected to society and continue to make their mark in the world either through voluntary or remunerated work. Perhaps, the chief factor in preventing their stigmatization and exclusion was the continued appreciation of their presence by their own families.

50. In many societies care for dependent or sick persons was provided by older people; in that context, it was important that their own access to primary health

care, centred on their medical needs and adequate nutrition, should be integrated into the wider development process and include a safety net to cope with inadequate social schemes. Conceding that Governments and private institutions were mainly responsible for social protection of the elderly, the Holy See — while itself supporting older persons through various programmes run by Catholic agencies in thousands of facilities in the developing countries — reaffirmed the importance of the family for their overall security and their mental, physical and spiritual health.

51. Compassion, love, respect, appreciation and affection were also important for older persons; he therefore urged that those values should be taught in schools, practised in the home and promoted in the media. Also, a basic social pension and the protection of pension rights could provide support for the elderly, especially in low-income countries, where their nutritional status was threatened by poverty, onerous family responsibilities and age-related disabilities.

52. With the transition from a high-fertility regime to one of low population growth in developed and developing countries alike, the numbers of the elderly were expected to treble by 2050 and one third of them to be living in developing countries by 2030. The lessons to be drawn were that every country must become or remain a "society for all ages" and that extra caution was needed when fiscal and international policies entered the realm of human engineering.

53. **Mr. Dall'oglio** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) recalled that the Copenhagen Programme of Action had recognized the special situation of international migrants. A wide range of social integration issues requiring action had been highlighted, and he welcomed the attention devoted to migrants in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The high-level dialogue on migration and development to be held in September 2006 would provide an opportunity to pursue concerted efforts to maximize the benefits of international migration while addressing its challenges.

54. The comprehensive and integrated approach to development adopted by the United Nations system, which ensured that social and economic issues were tackled coherently and social objectives were mainstreamed into economic policymaking, was particularly crucial with regard to migrants, who were at times considered to be mere factors of production. Since the integration process was first and foremost a personal one, for social partnerships played an important role. The private sector, employers' associations and social actors must address discrimination against migrants and ensure their productive participation in workplaces and local communities.

55. The successful integration of migrants, on a temporary or permanent basis, provided opportunities and challenges for the receiving countries and fostered diversity, creativity, growth and economic development. If the integration experience was not successfully managed, however, it could lead to social and cultural conflict and affect social cohesion. The impact of migration depended on factors such as society's acceptance of cultural diversity, the level of interaction between migrants and the local population, the extent and pace at which foreigners settled into their new environment and the degree of adjustment required by host communities in the process of mutual adaptation. Since no model was applicable to all countries, although core issues could be similar, his Organization had developed initiatives to facilitate the exchange of information in order to increase understanding of integration issues.

56. The integration of migrants was a source of debate in both traditional and new countries of immigration, particularly in view of recent security concerns and the growth of migration in recent years. New initiatives had therefore emerged to promote cooperation and exchange good practices both centrally and locally. At the international level, they included: the Berne initiative, an intergovernmental process to develop a policy framework for the management of migration; the International Labour Organization proposed plan of action on migrant workers; his own organization's international dialogue on migration; and the concrete measures to further global migration governance of the Global Commission on International Migration (GCIM) which would present its recommendations the following day.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

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Summary record of the 4th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 4 October 2005, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Butagira ..... (Uganda)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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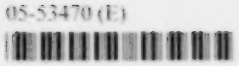

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 61: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/60/80 and 111)

Agenda item 62: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/60/61-E/2005/7, A/60/117, A/60/128, A/60/133 and Corr.1, A/60/138, A/60/155, A/60/156, A/60/290 and A/60/377-E/2005/92)

Agenda item 63: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*) (A/60/151 and A/60/377-E/2005/92)

1. **Ms. Asmady** (Indonesia) emphasized that developing countries' pursuit of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and stronger democratic systems needed international support, through such measures as new financial mechanisms.

2. The commitments entered into at the World Summit for Social Development must be implemented. To that end, Indonesia had adopted a strongly people-centred development approach, using a "triple track strategy" focusing on growth, employment and the poor. It sought to halve unemployment and poverty by 2009, and to maintain 6.6 per cent economic growth in each of the coming five years.

3. At the same time, to improve social development, Indonesia had enacted legislation to protect health and employment and provide for injury and pension coverage. Believing that the family played a crucial role in promoting and maintaining social and economic well-being, Indonesia had played an active role in the first East Asia Ministerial Forum on Families, held in Hanoi in April 2004. Its own family health assistance programme equipped rural families to cope with social change.

4. The Government viewed cooperatives as the heart of people-centred economic activity and stronger community-based economies, and therefore focused on increasing and equitably distributing skills and resources for small businesses.

5. While Indonesia acknowledged the major contribution of local and foreign volunteers to relief efforts in post-tsunami Aceh and North Sumatra, better coordination and networking among them would maximize their efforts.

6. The Government was also sensitive to the needs of older persons, having established a five-year national action plan and a National Commission on Ageing. Furthermore, in connection with the Biwako Millennium Framework for action towards an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific, to which Indonesia was fully committed, it had launched a five-year action plan to address issues specific to disabled persons.

7. With regard to regional action, the ministers of social welfare and development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), meeting in Bangkok in December 2004, had resolved to use community- and people-centred approaches to create a community of caring societies.

8. Making Indonesia more democratic, peaceful, prosperous and just would take time and present challenges, but partnership and solidarity of the kind that had been evident in the aftermath of the tsunami would help it along that path.

9. **Mr. Pavlychko** (Ukraine) associated his delegation with the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union and said that he wished to highlight some social-development issues of specific interest to Ukraine.

10. Social inclusion, a key development challenge of our time, was the basis for social cohesion. People all over the world faced unemployment, lack of resources, discrimination and social marginalization, while falling birth rates, increasing life expectancy, early retirement and increasing labour-market exclusion threatened the foundations of prosperity. Much remained to be done. Putting people at the centre of development made economic growth a means to an end, rather than an end in itself.

11. The new Ukraine, built on the values of human dignity, freedom, justice, democracy and the rule of law, was committed to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and to internationally agreed development goals. While Governments must take

primary responsibility for social-development policies and financing social-development programmes, local, national and international cooperation played an important supporting role.

12. The Government aimed to use legislation to encourage local communities to become involved in economic activity, make them more active and self-reliant and lessen the impact of structural change on vulnerable areas. The Government's top priority was to establish a middle class and to use employment policy as the main way to combat poverty. Macroeconomic stability was the main prerequisite for social development. However, while employment remained the main strategy, action was needed in other areas: the Government was working to provide social protection for all target groups, including women, children, the elderly and disabled persons.

13. The Government was committed to efficient national and international cooperation to establish a more competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy, with sustainable development and social cohesion.

14. **Ms. Laohaphan** (Thailand) explained that Thailand, having already achieved the Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people living in poverty, had resolved to reduce that figure further to under 4 per cent by 2009 and to improve income distribution. It believed firmly that self-help and national ownership contributed to long-term sustainable development. As a middle-income country, Thailand wished to contribute to the international effort to achieve the Goals and had therefore focused its official development assistance on infrastructure, technical assistance and capacity-building in education, public health, agriculture and income-generating activities.

15. In the interests of social integration, Thailand aimed to provide equitable social protection and social welfare for all, with particular emphasis on children and youth, women, older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. It had established institutional and legal frameworks to protect them and give them equal access to resources and opportunities. A five-year national plan sought to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, realize their potential and give them better access to health care, education, employment and information technology.

16. The family was the basic unit of economic revitalization and the first line of defence against social problems. Thailand supported proposals to encourage the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to incorporate the family perspective into their activities and was in favour of exchanging information, experiences and good practices regarding family policy more intensively.

17. Thailand, with its ageing society, had taken action to develop the potential of all age groups and to promote the concepts of "active ageing" and "productive ageing" so that older persons continued to contribute to society. Their needs must be taken into account in efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Efforts must continue in order to disseminate and implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

18. Although the report of the 2005 World Summit had only briefly mentioned the matters currently under discussion, Member States were aware that mainstreaming the concerns of older persons, the family and persons with disabilities into their national agendas would not neglect other groups, and that they must work towards building a society for all.

19. **Ms. García-Matos** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) expressed her delegation's deep concern that world poverty was increasing and that the financial system was worsening the situation of the poorest countries. The Millennium Development Goals were unlikely to be achieved on time. The central aim of the 2005 World Summit had been subverted, as it had shifted its focus away from the widespread problems of poverty, hunger, exclusion, malnutrition and disease towards the powerful countries' agenda of threats to international peace and security. They used those threats to justify violating other States' sovereignty and self-determination, an agenda of war and destruction rather than peace and development. As a result, Venezuela distanced itself from the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which marked a step backwards for development.

20. Venezuela had risen to the challenge of finding alternative ways of tackling social inequality and improving quality of life. It was transforming itself from a country which relied on others into one which relied on itself, encouraging a people-based economy and cooperative ventures, and establishing financial

institutions to give access to credit. Social and education campaigns and campaigns including Misión Barrio Adentro, Misión Mercal, Misión Vuelvan Caras and Misión Zamora had succeeded in improving literacy and employment rates and providing access to all stages of education, health care, food and cultivable land. Venezuela's development model must change and give communities the power to organize themselves and draw in those hitherto excluded from educational, economic and social activities.

21. **Mr. Aliyev** (Azerbaijan) said that poverty fuelled inequality, thereby representing a serious security threat. The global commitment to eradicating poverty should be sustained, not simply expressed as a response to financial emergencies or national calamities. Poverty-reduction strategies should focus on the structural causes; if they were neglected, the social and economic security of the population, particularly the disadvantaged, would not improve. His delegation endorsed the view in the Secretary-General's report on follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/60/80) that greater assistance must be provided, in the form of technical and financial resources and debt-relief measures, to enable countries to focus their scarce resources on social expenditure.

22. Azerbaijan had placed a people-centred approach at the heart of its new 10-year programme for poverty reduction and sustainable development. State policy promoted measures to improve social and economic welfare, encourage a stronger private sector, increase economic opportunities and job quality and provide equal access to social protection and social services. The four-year State programme for the social and economic development of the regions provided a framework for action in rural areas and, together with the national employment strategy, for job creation.

23. Refugees and internally displaced persons remained the most vulnerable section of the population. The Government continued to allocate resources to address their housing- and employment-related problems, but the high rates of unemployment and poor living standards associated with their situation remained a formidable challenge and a serious burden for a country with an economy in transition.

24. Azerbaijan, as one of the few members of Youth Employment Network, supported recommendations in the Secretary-General's repo global analysis and evaluation of national action p on youth employment (A/60/133) to the effect tha Network should be strengthened as a peer excha support and review mechanism, and in that regar emphasized the role of ILO, the World Bank and partners.

25. Every effort must be made to protect strengthen the family, which was crucial to the ov development of society, and the Organization c play a catalytic role. Governments should encouraged to contribute to the United Nations Fund on Family Activities and United Nations fu programmes and specialized agencies should encouraged to integrate a family perspective into activities and to identify a focal point on fa matters within their offices.

26. **Mr. Babadoudou** (Benin), speaking on age item 62, said that his delegation wished to focus on family, because the family encompassed the full ra of social issues and a family-based approach to so issues facilitated the harmonization and integratio sectoral policies. It was imperative that international community should embrace that appro in order to enhance social cohesion around the we The 2004 review of the progress achieved in decade since the International Year of the Fa (A/59/176) had revealed a mixed picture.

27. Recalling that, in Benin in 2004, African St had adopted a Plan of Action on the Family, he that the international community had not fully ado the family-based approach in its policies programmes, perhaps because the situation of various social groups that constituted the family not properly understood. The family — the basic of society — should be perceived as both embodiment and the catalyst of its culture. Based that perspective, the international community sho adopt the following three approaches.

28. First, it should take the lead in the formulatio an international instrument on the rights of the fam which might offer a definitive legal framew governing the various moral and ethical iss surrounding the definition of the family. Second should, as a matter of urgency, help the countries Africa to resolve the crisis afflicting their famil

which continued to suffer as the result of armed conflicts and poor governance. The family should be treated as the primary beneficiary of development in Africa and as the most active participant. In that regard, Member States might wish to be guided by the aforementioned Plan of Action. Third, the international community should gradually incorporate a family-based approach into all its social policies and programmes.

29. **Ms. Mchiela** (Malawi) said that Malawi welcomed the World Youth Report 2005 (A/60/61-E/2005/7), and remained committed to the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, as well as to the implementation of internationally agreed development goals.

30. The Government of Malawi had set up mechanisms to encourage multisectoral cooperation with a view to enhancing social development. It emphasized youth participation and involvement, and had supported the concept of the Children's Parliament since 2001, leading to increased participation by young people in decision-making. However, they faced numerous challenges to their development, including poor health, food insecurity, and the impact of HIV/AIDS.

31. Malawi had also made progress in promoting full employment as a basic priority within its economic and social policies, and had developed several programmes to address the issue. However, although it was the responsibility of Governments to address the situation, developing countries needed financial and technical support. In that regard, Malawi looked forward to the 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, to be held in the plenary Assembly under item 62.

32. The HIV/AIDS pandemic had changed the fabric of society in Malawi. Older persons were being increasingly called upon to reassume their child-care duties as the pandemic took its toll on the economically productive age group. In response, the Government had set up a programme to build the capacities of older persons as caregivers. Her delegation noted the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, and urged that the work be completed as soon as possible.

33. **Mr. Hyassat** (Jordan) said that his delegation welcomed the review of the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development, but hoped that it would lead to increased international cooperation aimed at ensuring the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

34. Jordan was striving to achieve those ends by developing its human resources through a broadening of education and a shift of emphasis from quantity to quality, aimed at achieving universal access to education by 2015, and targeted especially at the most vulnerable groups. A national strategy to combat poverty had reduced school dropout rates and illiteracy levels. With respect to health, Jordan attached great importance to the role of mothers and children and had worked hard to promote family planning. It was doing everything possible to create strong, healthy families, including by focusing on the role of older persons.

35. Jordan attached great importance to its youth, and the public and private sectors had combined to develop sports programmes aimed at maximizing the potential of young people and promoting group work and volunteer work. It was also trying to ensure equality between men and women and had established a number of programmes aimed specifically at young women. In that regard, Jordan welcomed the various activities being implemented for young people during the current session, including the 10-year review of the World Plan of Action for Youth.

36. With respect to persons with disabilities, Jordan welcomed the efforts to conclude a draft convention on disabilities, and hoped that a draft text would be concluded at the current session. Jordan attached great importance to ensuring that persons with disabilities retained their dignity and played an active role in society.

37. **Ms. Singh** (Nepal) recalled that the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly had reaffirmed that sustainable economic and social development was a key element of the overall framework for the activities of the Organization. However, although progress had been achieved in some areas since the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, the least developed countries continued to face serious challenges.

38. Nepal urged the international community to create a favourable economic environment, promote

international trade as an engine for development, increase financial and technical cooperation, and provide external debt relief to least developed countries in order for them to achieve sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and social development.

39. The negative impact of globalization should be eliminated and market-driven reforms should take into account the special vulnerabilities of the economies of least developed countries. Furthermore, international financial institutions must enhance the coherence of global monetary, financial and trading systems. Nepal recognized the need to establish partnerships with civil society and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of development policies and programmes at the national and international levels.

40. Nepal's current five-year plan was founded on four pillars: broad-based economic growth, social development, social inclusion and good governance. The country continued to suffer from lack of infrastructure, poor governance and corruption, as well as the impact of terrorism. However, poverty had been reduced, life expectancy had increased and a number of major social indicators had improved. Nepal attached great importance to the development of young people through quality education and employment. Although the implementation of the Programme of Action for Youth was welcome, there should be a greater focus on rural youth with a view to reducing poverty and curbing the migration of rural youth to the cities.

41. Her delegation acknowledged the important role played by the United Nations Volunteers and supported the idea of commemorating the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, in 2011. It also attached great importance to the role of cooperative organizations and encouraged the participation of women and vulnerable social groups in cooperative activities across all sectors.

42. Nepal supported measures to strengthen the family as the basic unit of society in order to promote social values and protect families and children. It also attached great importance to the development of persons with disabilities and would welcome the speedy conclusion of the convention currently being drafted to that end.

43. With respect to promoting and protecting the rights of older persons, she noted that the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing had facilitated efforts to mainstream ageing issues, and urged the international community to help enhance nati capacities to facilitate implementation of the Plan order to create a just, more peaceful and prospe world, the international community should address core issues of poverty eradication, full employ and social integration, by implementing Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Actio well as the Millennium Development Goals.

44. **Mr. Nguyen Tat Thanh** (Viet Nam) said that Nam was encouraged by the progress achieve social development since the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action. However, it concerned at persisting inequalities, as noted in *Report on the World Social Situation* (A/60/117/Rev.1). The challenges facing international community included the widening between developed and developing countries, inequitable international trade regime, develo countries' debt burden and the spread of de diseases.

45. Because social-development goals could no pursued independently of the economic spl supportive and coherent economic policies needed at both national and international levels. R action must be taken to implement the outcome of High-level Plenary Meeting, and national so development goals must be mainstreamed development strategies and programmes in orde maximize the use of available resources.

46. The Government's first priority was to harmo economic growth with social development, basec the principles of social progress and equity. Despite lack of resources, the budget allocation for so development continued to rise. The poverty rate been cut by more than half over the past decade, was expected to continue to fall steadily. Government had increased resources for employ generation, and was making sustained efforts promote social integration, particularly an population groups with special needs. It had also t a number of measures to encourage the participation of women in leadership and decis making.

47. Action had been taken to benefit chil including programmes in health care and educa Malnutrition and mortality rates for children under had fallen sharply. The Government had also ado

many policies for the support and care of older persons in its efforts to implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the aim being to promote their potential through social insurance and protection measures.

48. Significant efforts were also made to support persons with disabilities, by providing job opportunities while also focusing on rehabilitation, social reintegration and participation. It was crucial for States to cooperate to ensure the speedy implementation of the draft convention on disabilities currently being elaborated. Despite the encouraging achievements of recent years, much remained to be done. Viet Nam was strongly committed to the achievement of social-development goals and would continue to make every effort to that end.

49. **Ms. Shaidi** (United Republic of Tanzania), speaking on agenda item 61, said that her Government was determined to honour the commitments it had made at the 1995 World Summit, with particular regard to the three core issues of poverty, employment promotion and social integration. However, although it had devoted more resources to the fight against poverty, her country still lacked the resources required to reduce poverty effectively and ensure equity and equality in the delivery of social services with a view to minimizing social disparities, both within society and between rural and urban areas.

50. The Government had developed a comprehensive five-year strategy for economic growth and poverty reduction, which addressed the needs of vulnerable groups and tackled the cross-cutting issues of gender, the environment, employment and HIV/AIDS. International cooperation and financing were essential to the Government's efforts to enhance the social sector. Thanks to the support of its development partners, the Government had been able to abolish primary-school fees. As a result, the primary enrolment rate was virtually 100 per cent, and gender parity had been achieved.

51. The United Republic of Tanzania was committed to the development of people-centred policies that included older persons, women, youth and the disabled. It was currently studying the possibility of enacting legislation on social protection, which would include a social-security component. Youth unemployment constituted a particular challenge, especially since most Tanzanians lived in rural areas with limited economic opportunities. Her Government therefore welcomed the emphasis which the recent High-level Plenary Meeting had placed on rural and agricultural development as an integral part of national and international development policies. The Government was promoting decent employment as a strategy for reducing poverty in urban and rural areas, and was planning to formalize the informal sector with a view to increasing and regularizing employment opportunities and entrepreneurial initiatives. However, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis were threatening the very fabric of society by destroying the productive workforce. A collective effort was urgently needed in order to halt the spread of those diseases. Lastly, she called for the elimination of the country's debt burden so that it could use its scarce resources for social programmes.

52. **Ms. Holguín** (Colombia) said that the follow-up to major conferences and summits should be a priority. Specific tools should be designed to foster long-term, sustainable development policies to ensure the well-being of peoples in the developing countries. The assistance approach was to be avoided. Complying fully with commitments made during major conferences would contribute towards remedying inequities between countries and within countries. The United Nations had a great potential to strengthen and consolidate long-term development policies and, to ensure that, there should be broader cooperation with Member States and a strengthening of their national capacities in policymaking and social investment. That was vital at a time when the United Nations had embarked upon reforms and was debating its relevance.

53. The Government of Colombia was giving increased recognition to social investment. The recent Global Competitiveness Report, published by the World Economic Forum, had shown that Colombia had advanced the most in the global-competitiveness ranking.

54. Employment creation was a priority in both urban and rural areas. Colombia believed in a holistic approach towards employment policies, one that incorporated basic education, vocational training and entrepreneurial development. The public-employment services and presidential programmes were promoting enterprise development and providing financial support to women and young entrepreneurs. Particular attention was being paid to strengthening alternative-crop

programmes as a solution to the production of illicit drugs.

55. Education was a cornerstone of sustainable social development and the Government was investing in science and technology. She believed that the United Nations could increase its participation and cooperation in that field. Housing was another priority for which the Government had increased funding in both rural and urban areas. She called for joint efforts to revitalize the Economic and Social Council so that it would become a high-level forum for development with a capacity for analysing national strategies to serve as a benchmark for Member States.

56. **Mr. Zoumanigui** (Guinea) noted that a common vision of development had emerged from the conferences of the 1990s and 2000. Although the way forward was still fraught with obstacles, those conferences had helped to pinpoint the causes and complexities of development challenges.

57. His delegation was more convinced than ever that the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action provided the basic framework for the promotion of social development at both national and international levels. Accordingly, the Government had drafted a poverty reduction strategy in 2000 with three central goals: acceleration of economic growth, access to basic social services and improvement in governance. It involved programmes covering such areas as education, health, integrated rural development, rural water-supply systems and consolidation of institutional capacities. The second follow-up report on the Millennium Development Goals had also been prepared.

58. His country's programmes had been adversely affected by regional instability, however, thus lending credence to the maxim that there could be no development without peace and no peace without development. Thanking the bilateral and multilateral partners for their support, he called upon the international community to lend his country further support in countering the consequences of the conflicts in the subregion.

59. Progress would be contingent upon a shared responsibility between the developed and developing countries — a responsibility based on good national and international governance practices and transparency.

60. **Mr. Taranda** (Belarus) said that the declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, adopted at the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, had recognized the need to support national efforts of developing countries, the least developed countries and countries with economies in transition. Overcoming development inequalities between countries served the common interest of improving social and economic stability and maintaining peace and security. The situation of African countries must be given priority; the international community must support the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), address Africa's debt burden and increase official development assistance.

61. In Belarus, people-centred development, a key principle of the Copenhagen Declaration, provided the foundation for social and economic development strategies and programmes. Despite the difficulties of its transitional economy, Belarus considered assistance for the most vulnerable members of society to be a priority. It spent substantial sums on support for the one in five members of the population, including some 500,000 children, who had been affected by the Chernobyl disaster. It was grateful for the international, governmental and non-governmental assistance it had received in that connection. In April 2006, a conference in Minsk would mark the twentieth anniversary of the disaster, providing a forum to exchange information and best practice and develop practical steps and strategies for recovery and sustainable development in the affected areas. Belarus invited all interested parties to attend.

62. **Mr. Ngcaweni** (South Africa) noted that the core priorities of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and the World Programme of Action for Youth were mutually reinforcing in that they set out to promote social development for all, while acknowledging that sustainable development depended upon the participation of young people in the productive sectors of society.

63. The Government welcomed the recent 10-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth, but was disheartened to observe that youth unemployment was still widespread. It viewed youth as a resource, rather than a problem, and had created a youth unit in the Presidency to enable young people to participate in decision-making and policy formulation. It had set up various bodies such as the National Youth

Commission and the South African Youth Council. Young people in South Africa also had access to HIV/AIDS prevention and care programmes, and were able to take part in job training under the national skills development strategy.

64. South Africa was proud to have progressed beyond the targets set out in the World Programme of Action for Youth and was well on the way to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the area of education. Considerable strides had also been made in terms of social integration. In cooperation with the African Union and the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), it was beginning to disseminate youth-development policies and programmes to the rest of the continent.

65. **Mr. Adekanye** (Nigeria), said that, in its attempts to achieve social development, the Government of Nigeria was concentrating on three core issues: poverty eradication, full employment and social integration. The mandate of the recently established national poverty eradication programme included the coordination of all poverty-eradication activities in the country. Legislation had been enacted at both federal and state levels to provide a framework for action.

66. Universal primary education in Nigeria had led to a dramatic increase in the enrolment of young people in vocational training schools and training centres and had boosted the education of girls.

67. Much was being done to cope with HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases under a new national strategic framework; however, a sustained international response was needed to ensure that those diseases did not thwart efforts to attain the set goals. With regard to persons with disabilities, the Government had established social-welfare departments at federal and state levels to cater for their needs.

68. As the Commission for Social Development had concluded, addressing the root causes of poverty required the participation of Governments, international organizations and civil society. The Government of Nigeria therefore welcomed NEPAD, as it was convinced that national efforts would only succeed through partnerships of that kind. International support for NEPAD must therefore be sustained and such global partnerships encouraged.

69. **Mr Husain** (Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)), speaking on item 62, acknowledged the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in particular the two programmes on youth and the family. Relations had been cordial and fruitful, despite the fact that their respective positions on the family had differed at times.

70. OIC and its member States, having played a significant role in the drafting of the World Programme of Action for Youth, was concerned that a number of planned targets had not been reached. Far too many young people and children were still living below the poverty line or were undernourished. The Programme of Action should be renewed and include five additional priority areas of support: globalization, information and communication, HIV/AIDS, armed conflicts and intergenerational relations.

71. The view that the natural family was the basic social unit of society seemed to be gaining ground and that was entirely in keeping with Islamic family values. OIC had advocated the establishment, inter alia, of national coordination mechanisms to harmonize policies and programmes on family issues, and was pleased to note that that approach had been advocated in the Secretary-General's report.

72. OIC reiterated its readiness to cooperate with the United Nations in strengthening families and family values, as it firmly believed that the family remained the God-made vehicle through which the global village of the future could develop a productive and progressive world community, as envisaged in the Millennium Development Goals.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.

United Nations A/C.3/60/SR.5

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

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Third Committee

Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 5 October 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Butagira ..... (Uganda)
later: Mr. Anshor (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Indonesia)

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Agenda item 62: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*)*

Agenda item 63: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*)*

* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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05-53683 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 61: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly *(continued)* (A/60/80 and A/60/111)

Agenda item 62: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family *(continued)* (A/60/61-E/2005/7, A/60/117, 128, 133 and 133/Corr.1, 138, 155, 156, 290 and A/60/377-E/2005/92)

Agenda item 63: Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing *(continued)* (A/60/151 and A/60/377-E/2005/92)

1. **Mr. Tarp** (Denmark), representing the Danish Council of Organizations of Disabled People and speaking under agenda item 62, said that the Millennium Development Goals would not be achieved unless the most vulnerable group, persons with disabilities, was included. More than two thirds of such persons lived in developing countries and most of them were the poorest among the poor, lagging behind the standard of living enjoyed by even poor non-disabled persons. Poverty-eradication programmes should therefore always aim at providing the disabled with basic necessities. Moreover, since such persons needed education even more than the non-disabled, children with disabilities should benefit from affirmative action in all education programmes, without which they had no chance on the labour market. Special attention should also be given to women with disabilities, notably under the Millennium Goals, while care should be taken not to overlook the Millennium Goal of eradicating polio.

2. Referring to the ongoing negotiations for a United Nations convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, which he was confident would become a reality by 2007, he welcomed the involvement of organizations of disabled persons in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee set up for that purpose. It was important for Governments to make regular contributions to the Voluntary Fund established to enable such organizations, particularly from developing countries, to participate in its sessions. In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities would be revised so as to guarantee such persons full enjoyment and effective protection of all human rights.

3. **Mr. Chem Widhya** (Cambodia), speaking under agenda item 61, welcomed the emphasis that continued to be placed on the three core issues identified at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, namely, poverty eradication, full employment and social integration. However, the bulk of the world's population still suffered from poverty and its ills. A multilayered and multisectoral approach was needed to overcome that scourge. Accordingly, his Government had developed a national poverty-reduction strategy aimed at ensuring a justice system supportive of people's rights, a system of local governance that empowered people and communities, effective provision of public services and systematic efforts against corruption. However, national efforts to eradicate poverty would founder unless the international environment was conducive to the development process.

4. A particular obstacle to social development in his country was HIV/AIDS, against which his Government had similarly developed a national plan. He appealed to the international community to honour its commitments by giving assistance to countries affected by the pandemic.

5. The promotion of full employment was a priority for the Government of Cambodia, particularly in agriculture, a key sector, but also in tourism and labour-intensive industries and services. In order to ensure Cambodia's competitiveness among regional players in the global market, more attention would be given to the development of technology and knowledge-based industries.

6. Lastly, in the interests of social integration, the authorities were taking measures to promote gender equality, respond to the concerns of persons with disabilities, older and displaced persons, and ensure grass-roots participation in decision-making through decentralized governance.

7. **Ms. Al-Shamisi** (United Arab Emirates), said that, 10 years after the Copenhagen Summit, half the world population continued to lack the basic conditions for living with dignity. It was therefore important to make increased efforts to implement the recommendations of United Nations conferences on social development with a view to creating a society fit

for all where people would enjoy security, stability and prosperity.

8. The United Arab Emirates, for its part, had made notable progress in most of the social-development indices, as reflected in rising per capita income, increased government expenditure on education and health care, a higher percentage of women in gainful employment, lower post-partum and infant mortality and the eradication of dangerous diseases. Particular importance was assigned to human-resource development, including the provision of free education at all levels, to meet employment needs, especially in the private sector, which was the mainstay of the national economy. The Government also gave special attention to promoting the integration into society of troubled youth and disabled persons. It sought to enhance social solidarity in other ways as well, notably by supporting volunteer and humanitarian organizations, which had contributed significantly to welfare programmes and development programmes both nationally and internationally. She singled out in that respect her country's Red Crescent organization, which was active in 95 countries in the world.

9. **Ms. Otiti** (Uganda) welcomed the emphasis placed in the Secretary-General's reports dealing with social development on the essential rural component of national development as a mitigating factor against urban and rural poverty and large-scale migration. Stressing the importance of universal primary education, she said that the implementation of poverty-eradication strategies required the support of development partners, in particular through increased official development assistance. Referring with appreciation to the World Youth Report 2005, she said that in Uganda the participation of young people in decision-making was ensured at all levels, including the family, the community, schools and Parliament. Information and communication technology was important in facilitating such participation, with due regard for interpersonal and cultural norms.

10. The needs of older persons were of great concern, rendered more acute by the threats posed to family structures by poverty and disease, in particular HIV/AIDS which, if not curbed, would make ageing an unattainable privilege. She therefore welcomed recent developments within the United Nations system in favour of older persons, especially the follow-up being given to the Madrid Plan of Action adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, referring in particular to the needs of developing countries and rural areas. She emphasized in that connection the contribution that could be made by volunteerism.

11. Concerning the rights of persons with disabilities, she looked forward to the successful conclusion of ongoing efforts to negotiate a United Nations convention on that subject and urged greater use of inputs from developing countries and increased support for such countries to conduct their own studies.

12. **U Maung Wai** (Myanmar) expressed satisfaction that the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, adopted by the Commission for Social Development in February 2005, had reaffirmed that enhanced international cooperation at the national level was essential for implementation of the Copenhagen commitments. He hoped that the financial mechanisms called for would soon materialize.

13. With respect to poverty alleviation, the Government of Myanmar had launched three development programmes to achieve balanced growth throughout the country and narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. On the issue of disability rights, it had taken measures to enable persons with disabilities to take advantage of rehabilitation services, participate in productive work and become more self-reliant. In addition, a new law was currently being prepared as part of the effort to ensure equal opportunities for such persons, both in education and in employment. Referring, in conclusion, to the follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons, he said that the International Day of Older Persons had been observed nationwide in his country since 1999 in order to develop awareness of the needs of such persons and promote collaboration between governmental and non-governmental organizations, media, private entities and youth in caring for them. Myanmar remained committed to the Madrid Plan of Action and to creating a society for all ages.

14. **Mr. Alaie** (Islamic Republic of Iran), referring to the *Report on the World Social Situation 2005* (A/60/117/Rev.1), said it was regrettable that the 10 principal commitments entered into at the World Summit for Social Development and endorsed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration had not been implemented as expected. Certain policies and practices had exacerbated inequalities in many parts of the world, particularly in terms of access to education.

15. A shortage of human and financial resources continued to hinder the achievement of social-development goals. In some cases, rapid economic growth and liberalization had aggravated social and cultural problems. Protection for the older members of society was becoming a more pressing need as populations aged. In addition, specific policies and measures were needed to avert the disintegration of family life.

16. Governments bore the main responsibility for eliminating inequality, discrimination and social disintegration by enacting and enforcing appropriate laws, providing employment with adequate income, ensuring public participation in decision-making and policy implementation, investing in social development, caring for the vulnerable, providing opportunities for advancement, and maintaining peace, security and stability.

17. Despite the adoption by the General Assembly 10 years previously of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, the *World Youth Report 2005* indicated some alarming trends with regard to poverty, lack of school enrolment and illiteracy among young people. Youth unemployment was highest in Western Asia and Africa and was exacerbated by globalization. Early pregnancy and the rate of HIV/AIDS and drug abuse among young people were still major sources of concern. All Governments needed to encourage investment to provide for the needs of young people, especially with regard to education and health care. Young people, particularly the most vulnerable groups, such as those with disabilities, should be treated with dignity and with respect for their rights so that they would grow up to be responsible members of society. It was to be hoped that the ongoing efforts to draft a convention on the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities would soon come to fruition.

18. Social development was a crucial element of the Millennium Development Goals. Increased international cooperation was needed to meet the targets by 2015, and developed countries, with their substantial capacities and resources, should shoulder the main responsibility in that regard. In an increasingly globalized and interdependent world, the suffering of one country affected all countries. Collective action and renewed commitment, particularly on the part of developed countries, would help to bring about prosperity and well-being for all nations.

19. **Mr. Amolo** (Kenya), speaking on agenda item 61, said that the struggle to eradicate poverty, promote employment and foster social integration presented a profound challenge to many developing countries, including Kenya. Although much had been achieved in implementing the commitments adopted by the World Summit for Social Development, much still remained to be done. The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development had emphasized the need to prioritize social development and had provided a framework for doing so. However, the commitments outlined in the Programme of Action had not been incorporated coherently into national laws, policies and programmes.

20. Kenya had launched initiatives for poverty reduction, such as a poverty-reduction strategy and the current economic-recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation. In addition, the Poverty Eradication Commission was coordinating public and private initiatives aimed at alleviating poverty. The recently launched Millennium Development Goals needs assessment and costing report indicated that Kenya required some $3 billion annually to bridge the funding gap in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Implementation of Goal 8, which called for a global partnership for development, would therefore be necessary if Kenya were to meet the targets by 2015.

21. Kenya had developed specific policies to address the needs of young people, the aged, women and the disabled. Young people, who constituted over 60 per cent of the country's population, were the hardest hit by poverty. The Government had financed rural youth-development projects aimed at creating jobs, and a sessional paper on youth policy was awaiting parliamentary debate. The implementation of universal free primary education and the adoption of the Disability Act 2004 had brought social and economic benefits but were also exerting extra pressure on the country's scarce resources. The Government needed external financial assistance to meet the challenges of raising the retirement age and introducing an affordable and accessible health-care plan.

22. Globalization and rapid technological advances had adversely affected Kenya's economy. Unfair competition, rising production costs and Western

agricultural subsidies had led to the closure of many industrial concerns. The resultant job losses had led to increased pressure on social services and amenities and constituted a threat to social integration.

23. Each country had an individual role to play in promoting social development, but collaboration would enable the desired results to be achieved more quickly. The necessary normative framework was in place; what was needed now was political will and active participation. Success would come if every country set its sights on the prize: the eradication of poverty, inequality and social exclusion.

24. **Mr. Phanouvong** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on agenda item 62, welcomed the *World Youth Report 2005*, which showed that progress had been made in a number of areas in implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth. However, there remained many obstacles to further progress, which particularly affected young people in developing countries. Hunger, poverty, inadequate access to education, gender inequality, health problems, drug abuse and delinquency were the major problems for young people that still needed to be addressed by the international community. The complex nature of those problems and the linkages between them resulting from globalization meant that all nations had to work together to overcome them.

25. From the time of its foundation in 1955, the Lao Youth Union had played an active part in the struggle for national independence. Since the liberation of the country in 1975, the Union had become a mass organization with more than 200,000 members, 80,000 of whom were women. The Union's objectives were to promote solidarity among young people and involve them in national development, to promote education, to raise awareness of health issues, to inspire a spirit of patriotism, and to contribute to the promotion of peace, friendship, cooperation and development.

26. The Lao Youth Union also took part in the formulation of national youth policy and in efforts to promote the socio-economic development of the country. As a landlocked least developed country, the Lao People's Democratic Republic still faced difficulties in many areas. He therefore appealed to the international community to provide more assistance, particularly in the areas of education, health care, and information and communication technologies, so that his country could ensure a better future for its younger generation.

27. *Mr. Anshor (Indonesia), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

28. **Mr. Nsemi** (Congo), speaking on item 61, said that, 10 years after the World Summit for Social Development, the socio-economic disparities between rich countries and developing countries had widened. His delegation endorsed the conclusions of the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, which highlighted the uneven progress made in achieving the goals adopted at the Summit and stressed that additional efforts were needed.

29. The Congo was determined to implement the commitments entered into at the World Summit for Social Development and the Millennium Summit. For that reason, despite its debt burden, it was paying particular attention to poverty reduction. Under its development policy, a detailed programme for the elimination of inequalities had been drawn up for 2004-2009, in line with the poverty-reduction strategy paper negotiated with the international financial institutions. The Government had allocated substantial resources to the implementation of the programme but also required the assistance of development partners.

30. Unemployment — particularly among young people, who made up more than 50 per cent of the country's population — was a major cause of concern to the Congolese Government. For that reason, it had introduced a programme for the reintegration of ex-combatants, which had already achieved some success. He expressed his Government's appreciation for the funding received for the programme from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the European Union. He also thanked the Government of Japan for its contribution to the UNDP "youth at risk" project in the Congo. Nonetheless, much remained to be done in order to create the conditions of lasting peace and security necessary for development, and the Congo counted on the support of its development partners in that endeavour.

31. HIV/AIDS was one of the major causes of morbidity and mortality in the Congo, and the Government had established a national plan to combat the pandemic for 2003 to 2007, as well as a National Council to Combat HIV/AIDS under the personal authority of the Head of State. His Government welcomed the announcement of a substantial grant

from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the recent commitment by the Group of Eight industrialized countries to ensure that African AIDS victims received the treatment they needed by 2010. It also welcomed the Group's commitment to increase official development assistance and its decision to cancel the debts of 18 of the most heavily indebted countries, most of which were in Africa. He encouraged the Group to come up with further proposals for development financing in addition to their debt-relief initiatives.

32. The objectives set out at the World Summit for Social Development and the Millennium Development Goals could be achieved only through joint action by the international community. The Congo would continue to play its part in those efforts.

33. **Mr. Tesfu** (Ethiopia), speaking on item 61, welcomed the progress made in many areas of social development, as outlined at the forty-third session of the Commission for Social Development, but noted that progress was not consistent among all regions or among different groups within each country. In particular, unemployment had risen since the World Summit for Social Development and high levels of income inequality both within and among countries persisted.

34. Advances in social development at the global level had not fully materialized in sub-Saharan Africa. Poverty continued to rise and more than one third of the population was undernourished. Both unemployment and underemployment in the region were high. Progress in democratization and good governance had furthered social integration to some extent, but the challenge remained enormous. Conflict, instability, drought and HIV/AIDS continued to hamper the region's social and economic development. The commitment made by world leaders at Copenhagen to accelerate development in Africa had yet to be fulfilled.

35. Ethiopia had taken important steps to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which, in its view, incorporated the major commitments of Copenhagen. It had adopted a sustainable-development and poverty-reduction programme and had begun implementing policies in various sectors focusing on poverty eradication. Some encouraging results had been achieved: for example, the rate of primary-school enrolment and the level of access to health services had increased. Efforts were also under way to improve social integration through reform of the civil service and justice system. Democracy was taking root, as shown by the holding in May 2005 of the country's third and most contested democratic election.

36. Achievement of the goal of social development was primarily the responsibility of Governments, but international cooperation was also imperative. He therefore welcomed the recent commitments of donor countries to increase official development assistance and to cancel the debt of the poorest countries. Ethiopia had done its share to promote social development through the adoption and implementation of appropriate policies. However, further progress would require assistance from the international community. The current low level of official development assistance per capita annually was not sufficient: the needs assessment carried out in Ethiopia had shown that an eight-fold increase would be required in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

37. Reaffirming his country's commitment to social-development ideals, he looked forward to the day when the Assembly could celebrate the eradication of absolute poverty and the restoration of dignity to all.

38. **Mr. Limon** (Suriname) said that sustained progress in social development had not been achieved, owing to the absence of an enabling environment. His delegation believed that the advancement of social development depended on the participation of all stakeholders and the ability to integrate social and economic policies that improved opportunities and quality of life for all.

39. Poverty remained one of the most discouraging challenges facing the international community. In an effort to minimize the vulnerability of the poor, Suriname had established a social-security system for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, youth, persons with disabilities and the poor. The Government had also formulated a development strategy involving the private sector, trade unions and the community, and had developed policies to facilitate access to labour markets and enhance small entrepreneurship.

40. Although the primary responsibility for economic and social development lay with each country, an increase in resources was needed to meet development goals. Economic downturns, declining health services and lack of international support all affected the ability

of Governments, in the developing countries in particular, to implement social policies required for the betterment of their people.

41. The recently concluded World Summit had reaffirmed the importance of development in increasing world security and prosperity. Member States had expressed their willingness to work towards global development and were now looking to the United Nations to show the way.

42. **Mr. Gill** (India) said that continued implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session was needed to ensure a coherent, people-centred approach to development. India was concerned about the uneven progress in the achievement of the goals of the Summit and felt that the only way to address the problem was through capacity-building in developing countries, with the cooperation of the international community.

43. The Indian Government had formulated several development strategies in the fields of poverty alleviation, demographics, education and health. As a result, poverty had fallen to 26 per cent; the right to work had been made a fundamental right; and every rural household was guaranteed 100 days of work per year.

44. India endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendations in his report on the role of cooperatives in the eradication of poverty and was paying close attention to the development of cooperatives in various areas, including agricultural production.

45. With respect to the United Nations Literacy Decade, literacy rates in India had increased to over two thirds and elementary education had been made a fundamental right. The Government was proposing to raise public spending on education and had set up a National Commission on Education to allocate resources and monitor programmes.

46. India wished to emphasize the importance of the work being done by the United Nations agencies and civil-society organizations to support Governments in their efforts to care for ageing populations. India fully supported the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and hoped that the ongoing negotiations on a convention on disabilities would reach an early conclusion.

47. **Mr. Sadukov** (Kazakhstan) said that, 10 years after the adoption of the Copenhagen Programme of Action, social-development issues were still on the agenda; indeed, the economic and social indicators of some countries had even worsened. Developed countries had an obligation to increase international assistance while developing countries were expected to utilize that assistance as efficiently as possible.

48. Kazakhstan had consistently implemented the decisions taken at Copenhagen and Madrid and remained committed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The Government had launched a comprehensive package of social reforms and had increased education and health budgets. Maternal and child health, care for the disabled and housing shortages were also being addressed.

49. Noting that education was a prerequisite for entry to the labour market, Kazakhstan had instituted a number of measures including compulsory primary education, free higher education and vocational training, education loans and social protection of students.

50. With respect to care for older persons, Kazakhstan believed that, in order to ensure implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the relevant United Nations institutions needed to cooperate closely with Governments by giving them technical and advisory support. The Kazakh Government was currently reforming its pension system and had instituted compulsory individual health insurance to improve the quality of life of the elderly.

51. In conclusion, he said it was vital that Member States and specialized agencies took coordinated action and implemented their obligations regarding the development goals and other basic documents on social development.

52. **Ms. Al-Hajiri** (Qatar) said that the Copenhagen World Summit and other recent conferences had provided a sound basis for economic and social development by establishing a basic human right to development. But there could be no true development without peace and stability, and greater efforts needed to be made to end conflicts.

53. Qatar had in recent years enacted many laws to promote development. The Supreme Council for Family Affairs, established by royal decree under the

leadership of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Misnad, wife of the Emir, served all classes of society, including children, youth, women, older persons and the disabled. The Council had implemented a programme of educational integration for the disabled, and was developing a nationwide strategy for youth and older persons. The Declaration of the Doha International Conference on Ageing, held in April 2005, had been circulated in document A/60/377-E/2005/92. Qatar had also set aside $8 billion to endow two funds, one for education and one for health.

54. Qatar, in addition to efforts for national development, had also contributed generously to many international institutions and funds to help achieve the Millennium vision of reducing hunger and poverty. Qatar called for concerted efforts for comprehensive economic and social development, and for curtailing the negative effects of globalization in the developing countries, and especially the poorest countries.

55. **Ms. Chenoweth** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that the 1995 World Summit for Social Development had made a significant contribution to the promotion of more equitable and people-centred sustainable development, particularly in the area of the rights of women and the disabled. However, the nature of development challenges had changed since then; problems such as HIV/AIDS, ageing and gender inequality presented a major threat to social development, economic growth and political stability.

56. One of the most serious challenges currently facing mankind was hunger. FAO estimated that some 800 million people in the developing world were chronically hungry. Trends during the 1990s had revealed that, while some low-income countries had managed to reduce hunger, the majority had not. In general, the successful countries were characterized by more rapid economic growth, slower population growth, lower rates of HIV infection and a higher ranking in the human-development index.

57. To achieve equitable social development, countries needed to comprehend their social and economic situation and the real needs of their people. With respect to HIV/AIDS, which had struck the rural poor in overwhelming numbers, effective solutions would have to take into account all dimensions of the rural and agricultural sectors.

58. FAO was ready to assist Member States in achieving the internationally endorsed development goals as soon as possible. Although tangible progress had been made on many fronts, the battle for more equitable social development would be won only when men and women had equal access to productive resources and when they could benefit from technical and financial support as well as good governance and the rule of law.

59. The goal of creating an enabling environment for social development required close cooperation among many actors at all levels. FAO was currently working with the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development to make a genuine difference in the lives of the hungry and poor throughout the developing world.

The meeting rose at 11.55 a.m.

United Nations A/C.3/60/SR.6

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

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Third Committee

Summary record of the 6th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 7 October 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Butagira ..... (Uganda)
later: Ms. Carvalho (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Portugal)

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Agenda item 106: Crime prevention and criminal justice

Agenda item 107: International drug control

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05-53968 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 106: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/60/123, A/60/131, A/60/157, A/60/164, A/60/172, A/60/403-S/2005/621 and A/60/405-S/2005/623)

Agenda item 107: International drug control (A/60/129, A/60/130, A/60/336, A/60/403-S/2005/621 and A/60/405-S/2005/623)

1. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)), introducing agenda items 106 and 107, explained that the mandate of UNODC required it to prevent and contain the human and social costs of drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism by means of a comprehensive and balanced approach. His Office regarded crime as both the cause and consequence of poverty, insecurity and underdevelopment and therefore, while fighting crime, it sought to work synergistically with development institutions. UNODC had achieved substantial progress in that regard since 2002, when it had set out to recast drug and crime policies into a broader development mould, based on the promotion of justice and good governance, while grouping drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism under a single operational umbrella. Illicit drug trends were to some extent determined by supply and demand, but drug cultivation was also about poverty, just as drug abuse was also about HIV/AIDS. Rural development was then an antidote to drug cultivation, and drug prevention an important means of containing HIV/AIDS. That analysis could be extended to other fields, including human trafficking, where, while the perpetrators must be punished, there was also a need to tackle its root causes.

2. UNODC had in the previous two years been addressing drug prevention and crime control issues in ways that cut across its own internal jurisdictions and had just recently gone one step further, by promoting initiatives that cut across the portfolios of many other United Nations agencies and national organizations, the aim being to develop a global alliance towards the common goal of fighting crime, preventing terrorism and promoting justice for all.

3. Besides striving to secure the translation into domestic policies of the three United Nations conventions on drugs, UNODC was also the custodian of five important recent instruments against crime, the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols, and the Convention against Corruption. The last-mentioned instrument, which would enter into force on 14 December 2005, represented a real breakthrough in that it offered for the first time a mechanism for the return from one country to another of plundered wealth, which could mean an unexpected infusion of funds for development. The agreement so swiftly reached on those instruments reflected the new awareness that money-laundering, corruption and terrorism had an international dimension and an impact on peace, security and development.

4. After welcoming the encouragement given to UNODC by the Secretary-General and his High-level Panel and by the 2005 World Summit, he described its action in various areas. It had recently issued a report on crime and development in Africa, which provided evidence that Colombian cocaine and Afghan heroin was trans-shipped through the continent to avoid detection and showed that Africa was also the target of criminal gangs that frequently exploited post-conflict situations, increasing the risk of conventional crime and urban violence. Moreover, the inadequacy of Africa's police force and judicial systems was in itself an enticement to crime.

5. In that context, he expressed appreciation to Nigeria's President Obasanjo who had given strong support to a UNODC initiative, funded by a $32 million grant from the European Union, to fight corruption and financial crime in Nigeria. Indeed, because of crime and corruption, that country was marked by the highest rate of capital flight in the world. If there were no change, it was unrealistic to expect development aid to reach its intended beneficiaries intact. UNODC had accordingly developed, in partnership with African experts, a programme of action to deliver assistance in strengthening the rule of law in African countries. It remained for African Governments and interested institutions to integrate elements of that programme into their national development strategies, and for funding partners to earmark official development assistance for projects to strengthen the rule of law throughout the continent.

6. Other continents were equally affected by drugs, crime and corruption. Colombia, which suffered greatly from the evil alliance between drug traffickers

and guerrillas, had worked aggressively to counter drug production and insurgency by combining interdiction efforts with sustainable livelihood schemes. While, however, the most recent UNODC survey indicated a 50 per cent decline in coca cultivation in that country since 2000, Colombia continued to be the world's leading producer of coca, accounting for more than half the global supply. Neighbouring countries were also affected, as were countries in the Caribbean and Central America, caught in the nexus between crime, corruption, money-laundering and drug trafficking. The scope, nature and complexity of the problems demanded increased support from the international community.

7. Another significant challenge was Afghanistan, in terms of both counter-narcotic activities and alleviating the suffering of a population emerging from a quarter century of war. While the most recent UNODC survey showed a 21 per cent decline in opium cultivation there, in some areas it had increased owing to corruption. He stressed that one of the most important lessons to come out of Afghanistan in 2005 was that, in every region where cultivation had declined significantly, alternative development had been available. Again, a balanced, comprehensive approach was the key, with the international community being willing to address the problem simultaneously on a number of different fronts. He referred in that connection to the need to strengthen border security and law enforcement in the countries lying between drug-producing regions and the major drug hubs, in Europe and Russia. The Paris Pact, an initiative to that end, having already borne fruit, he expressed the hope that it would soon be broadened to combat terrorist financing, money-laundering, crime and corruption even more strenuously in the countries concerned.

8. UNODC would be developing in the coming period a sharper focus on specific regions. Its report on Africa would thus be followed by a similar study for the Caribbean and Central America, and later perhaps Asia. It also planned to release the first report on trafficking in persons in the near future. While its field operations would continue to address the same key areas as previously, it would be endeavouring to develop a stronger partnership with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations in order to build links between peacekeeping and the restoration of the rule of law in post-conflict situations. UNODC could not succeed, however, unless its efforts were better aligned with the needs of assisted countries, as well as with the visions of international lenders and donors. In that spirit, he asked developed countries to give serious thought to doubling the proportion of resources allocated to criminal justice projects in their development assistance, so that justice systems in developing countries could be of the same standard as in rich countries and thereby contribute significantly to the fight against drug trafficking, crime, corruption and terrorism.

9. **Mr. Bâzel** (Afghanistan) stressed that the positive developments in Afghanistan had been achieved thanks to Government effort[illegible]d with the self-restraint of cultivators of opiu[illegible] resultin[illegible]n the 21 per cent decline in cultivation already [illegible]. Stressing the importance of shared responsibility, he [illegible]hat, in order to sustain that trend, Afghanistan needed [illegible]he assistance of the international community, particularly for the poorest segments of the population which had suffered the ravages of a quarter century of conflict. Alternative livelihoods had to be found to replace opium cultivation, while there had to be a reduction in the demand of consuming countries.

10. **Mr. García González** (El Salvador), referring to the problem of juvenile gangs in Mexico and countries of Central America, with links to drug trafficking and money-laundering activities, asked what possibility there might be of strengthening technical cooperation with the countries concerned in order to tackle that problem. He also wondered if there was any prospect of studies being sponsored to evaluate the impact of juvenile gangs on efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

11. **Mr. Al-Enezi** (Kuwait) raised the question of transit countries for drug trafficking, especially in the Middle East, where millions of dollars changed hands in that connection. What measures were being taken or envisaged to address that issue?

12. **Ms. García-Matos** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), referring to the links between the drug trade and organized crime, asked for fuller information about assistance to countries adjacent to Colombia in developing policies to fight drug trafficking and money-laundering.

13. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), replying to Committee members' questions, reaffirmed UNODC

support for the policies being carried out by the Afghan Government.

14. Replying to the representative of El Salvador, he said that the impact of violence and trafficking in people and arms in Central America and the Caribbean had perhaps not been fully appreciated and now required urgent attention. In cooperation with the World Bank, UNODC would replicate in the Caribbean and Central American region the activities it was currently carrying out in Africa. A preliminary study for launching a development-based programme in the region would be carried out in spring or summer 2006. The study would take into account the tragic phenomenon of juvenile gangs.

15. As for the impact of Afghan drug exports on transit countries, according to a survey by his Office that would soon be released, drug cultivation along the south-eastern border of Afghanistan had shifted to the north-western provinces, and opium and an even larger volume of heroin traffic had been re-routed as a result. Thus, trafficking through Pakistan had declined from 37 per cent in 2004 to 20 per cent in 2005, and through the Central Asian republics, from 24 to 19 per cent, but it had jumped from 40 to 61 per cent through the Islamic Republic of Iran. From there, it was increasingly finding its way into the Gulf Cooperation Council countries about which the Kuwaiti representative had expressed concern (Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and, to some extent, Saudi Arabia) before heading for Africa and its final destination, Europe, which consumed about three fourths of Afghan opium.

16. He acknowledged that cocaine en route from Colombia to North America caused havoc in transit countries, a matter which his Office was investigating. UNODC accorded priority to addressing the counterflow of precursors used to transform coca paste into cocaine hydrochloride and was grateful to the Government of Venezuela for its efforts to curb the trafficking of cocaine out of Colombia and of precursors into Colombia.

17. **Ms. Sonaike** (Nigeria) said that the fight against crime was complicated by the fact that Africa was also facing development issues. Nigeria called upon the international community to support the outcome of the round table meeting on "Crime and drugs as impediments to security and development in Africa: strengthening the rule of law" held in Abuja, Nigeria.

18. **Ms. Holguín Cuéllar** (Colombia) said that the situation in Colombia was particularly difficult because illegal armed groups had joined forces with the drug traffickers. Despite that complication, the Government had managed to substantially reduce the number of hectares devoted to coca farming and had introduced a programme to provide the affected families with alternative crop projects. However, rising demand in consumer countries was a further complicating factor.

19. **Mr. Hussain** (Pakistan) wished to know what criteria had been used in estimating the transit trade from Afghanistan to other countries. If the figures were correct, Pakistan wondered why the efforts to curb the transit trade were not succeeding.

20. **Ms. Feller** (Mexico) said that her delegation wished to receive additional information on UNODC programmes and policies with respect to UNODC transit countries.

21. **Mr. Gzllal** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) wished to know what action UNODC was taking in North Africa, given that it was a transit and stockpiling region.

22. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) said that the Colombian Government had managed to reduce coca cultivation by 50 per cent in three years, with the assistance of the international community. However, he agreed with the representatives of Colombia and Afghanistan that it was necessary to reduce demand as well as supply and that the consuming nations should increase their efforts in that respect.

23. With regard to the comments of the representative of Pakistan concerning UNODC estimates of cultivation and trafficking, he pointed out that UNODC was currently monitoring cultivation in approximately one dozen countries around the world. During the fall, UNODC technicians visited farmers in thousands of villages to learn whether or not they intended to grow opium; in the winter, hundreds of satellite pictures were taken to verify the severity of the problem; during the spring months, the technicians returned to the field to verify the accuracy of the satellite readings. The margin of error stood at approximately 8 per cent. As for trafficking, the figures were derived from assessments by national intelligence agencies.

24. Regarding the question from Mexico, he suggested the possibility of establishing an arrangement for the purpose of monitoring trafficking

out of Colombia through Central America and the Caribbean. The document which UNODC was to produce in the next few months could serve as a basis for the project.

25. In response to the question from Libya regarding UNODC activities in North Africa, UNODC had six offices in Africa, including one in Cairo. Projects included the monitoring of cannabis cultivation in Morocco; finding alternative activities for cannabis farmers; monitoring the impact of cannabis trafficking out of North Africa into Europe; HIV/AIDS; corruption; and the trafficking of Afghan heroin. It was hoped that Governments in the region would contribute resources and technical assistance so that UNODC would be able to increase its activities.

26. **Mr. Thomson** (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries (Bulgaria and Romania), the candidate countries (Croatia and Turkey), the stabilization and association process countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), and, in addition, Norway, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that it was vital to tackle the underlying causes of crime as well as the problem of crime itself. The European Union fully supported the work of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, as international cooperation played a key role in building the necessary capacity to tackle crime. Effective international measures were also essential to counter organized criminal networks, which were becoming increasingly sophisticated.

27. The European Union welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and noted that its three Protocols had also entered into force. It called upon all States that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to and implement the Convention and its Protocols at the earliest possible date. The smuggling of migrants and the trafficking of human beings for prostitution and labour exploitation were two areas of growing concern. The European Union was currently developing an action plan to combat human trafficking which would provide a balanced and coherent framework to support law enforcement and protect the victims of trafficking.

28. Recognizing that corruption was an obstacle to sustainable development and that organized crime and terrorism largely depended on corrupt practices and networks, the European Union welcomed the signing of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and looked forward to its entry into force later in the year. The European Union was also aware of the need for effective international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and continued to support the valuable work of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC in its efforts to facilitate implementation of the 13 United Nations conventions and protocols on terrorism.

29. The European Union was alarmed at the drastic rise in the use of drugs and at the incidence of HIV/AIDS among drug users. Given the global nature of the problem, it was vital to find an effective response based on shared responsibility. In 2004, the European Council had endorsed the European Union Drug Strategy (2005-2012), which concentrated on the reduction of both supply and demand and on international cooperation, research and evaluation. In June 2005, the European Union had adopted an action plan on drugs for 2005-2008, through which to implement the Strategy.

30. In conclusion, the European Union wished to stress its commitment to the international fight against drug trafficking and transnational organized crime as well as its strong support for the work of UNODC. The European Union considered that greater coordination between the different areas of activity was needed to achieve maximum efficiency from existing structures and suggested that the international community should begin to reflect on how to improve its strategy against drugs in the run-up to the next special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to the world drug problem in 2008.

31. **Mr. Kapoma** (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that the increasing sophistication and diversification of organized criminal activities posed a serious challenge to the international community. SADC noted with appreciation the contributions made by the United Nations congresses in that they facilitated the exchange of views and recommended policy options at national, subregional and international levels. SADC particularly welcomed the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and took note of its adopted declaration.

32. The entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and

the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition was warmly welcomed by SADC and the African region in general, given that poor communities, especially those in countries in conflict or post-conflict situations, were particularly vulnerable to human trafficking and smuggling. SADC had its own protocol on the control of firearms and was ready to cooperate with the international community by sharing information and best practices. It attached great importance to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and had held various workshops and seminars to try to sensitize Member States and encourage them to ratify the Convention without delay.

33. SADC wished to emphasize the need to strengthen international cooperation to help developing countries implement the Conventions and called on the donor community and financial institutions to continue making voluntary contributions for the provision of technical assistance.

34. With respect to the world drug problem, SADC noted with satisfaction that international cooperation continued to strengthen and that considerable progress had been made in achieving the goals set for 2008 by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. To help reduce drug abuse and trafficking, SADC had developed a strategy framework on drugs which promoted the gathering and sharing of information on the drug situation within and among each SADC member State. Other programmes included community-based prevention initiatives, increased awareness campaigns and support for law enforcement officers. SADC welcomed the round table meeting entitled "Crime and drugs as impediments to security and development in Africa: strengthening the rule of law" and commended UNODC for cooperating on the implementation of technical assistance projects in Africa. SADC was also pleased that UNODC had widened its network by establishing field offices on the continent.

35. Training, dissemination of information and the provision of advisory services were fundamental elements of the fight against drugs and crime. The Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had reaffirmed that the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders should be the regional coordinating mechanism for specialized training programmes for African law enforcement officers. SADC felt that, if it received greater financial aid from the international community, the Institute would be able to assist Member States in the implementation of crime prevention programmes.

36. In the face of increasing global challenges posed by all forms of crime and the interconnected nature of criminal activities, the importance of international cooperation could not be overstated. That imperative was clearly highlighted in the report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change entitled "A more secure world: our shared responsibilities" (A/59/565) and in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (A/59/2005). SADC wished to reaffirm its commitment to crime prevention, criminal justice and drug control and would continue to support the international community in its efforts to find durable solutions.

37. **Mr. Hussain** (Pakistan) urged Member States to take very seriously their obligations under the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In addition to complying with their treaty obligations, Member States must strengthen partnerships against terrorism, drugs, organized crime and corruption. He called for further action in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and greater efforts to reduce poverty, which fuelled crime.

38. In the past five years, Pakistan had taken a number of important steps to strengthen its criminal justice apparatus. It intended to ratify the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in the near future. It had set up a special unit in its Federal Investigation Agency to counter trafficking in persons. A new unit to deal with cybercrime had also been established. The National Accountability Bureau had achieved significant success in curbing high-level corruption and had recovered billions of rupees in illegally obtained money. The Bureau had organized an Integrity Retreat to sensitize Government ministers and high-level officials to the negative social and economic impact of corruption. In collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, it had launched an Access to Justice Programme designed to reform the criminal justice, prosecutorial, judicial and prison systems and to make the police force more accountable and responsive. Its reform agenda placed special emphasis on strengthening regional and international cooperation in matters of mutual legal assistance.

39. Multipronged strategies, at both the national and international levels, to address the world drug problem must include illicit crop eradication and alternative development programmes in producer countries as well as measures to prevent, monitor, control and punish money-laundering, the financing of terrorist acts and transnational organized crime. The negative impact of the drug problem on long-term socio-economic development and social issues, such as the HIV/AIDS pandemic, should also be monitored. Through bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and arrangements, the international community must provide financial, legal and technical support to national efforts to reduce demand, eliminate psychotropic substances and precursors, and exchange information on money-laundering. Such programmes should also include assistance to transit countries.

40. Thanks to its Anti-Narcotics Force, Pakistan was a poppy-free country. The Force had intercepted tons of heroin and other drugs bound for Europe and North America. Pakistan had played a leading role in sensitizing the international community to the drug problem in its region and had bolstered international efforts to stop the outflow of drugs and the inflow of precursor chemicals in that part of the world. At home, its illicit crop cultivation had been eliminated through a combination of law enforcement and alternative development initiatives.

41. Referring to the discussion of terrorism at the 2005 World Summit, he said that the Secretary-General's global strategy against terrorism formed a sound basis for future discussions. Pakistan had made significant contributions to fighting international terrorism but, at the same time, believed that that mission should not become a pretext for oppression, occupation and injustice.

42. **Mr. Xie** Bohua (China) said that in recent years China had made great efforts to improve its domestic criminal justice system, enhance the effectiveness of its law enforcement mechanisms and strengthen international cooperation. Anti-money-laundering legislation was currently being drafted; law enforcement agencies were targeting organized crime, smuggling, economic crimes and gangs; and fighting crime was a top priority of its anti-corruption agencies. As for international cooperation, China had signed 71 mutual legal assistance treaties or protocols with 47 countries, mainly relating to assistance in criminal justice matters. It had concluded extradition treaties with 23 countries and cooperated with a number of countries on the transfer of convicted criminals. China had ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its National People's Congress was completing the necessary formalities for ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. His Government hoped to set up exchange and consultation mechanisms with other countries in order to enhance international cooperation in the field of justice.

43. For historical reasons, his Government was attuned to the dangers of drugs and had long taken a comprehensive approach towards drug control that involved various government agencies and all of Chinese society. China was drafting a drug control law and, in recent years, had made remarkable progress in drug control enforcement and demand reduction. In 2004 alone, China had dealt with 98,000 drug-related crimes and seized 10.83 tonnes of heroin, 2.75 tonnes of methamphetamine, 3 million ecstasy tablets and 160 tonnes of precursor chemicals. It had also prevented 3,500 tonnes of various types of precursor chemicals from being exported illegally.

44. His Government attached great importance to the role played by enforcement cooperation and legal assistance in combating transnational drug crimes. In 2004, China had worked with the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand and other neighbouring countries to crack several large-scale transnational drug trafficking cases. Under bilateral drug control agreements and within the framework of the UNDCP project on cross-border cooperation in drug law enforcement, China had engaged in cooperation with Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia on legal assistance and the transfer of suspects. His Government had contributed 500,000 yuan to alternative development projects in the northern regions of Myanmar and Laos and had hosted a seminar on alternative development for the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

45. **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt) said that the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok, and the fourteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in May 2005, had been crucial to the further development of the concept of criminal justice and the rule of law, and to building an international consensus on liberty and common values. Despite the progress achieved, however, much remained to be done

in terms of exchanging experiences and information at the international level and supporting systems of justice in developing countries that faced huge economic and other challenges. Capacity-building at the regional level was equally vital.

46. He stressed, in particular, the need to provide financial and human resources for the effective operation of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Egypt accorded particular importance to crime prevention within the framework of its national policy to enhance stability and peace for all its people. Through its governmental structures, Constitution, religious and cultural laws and values, and a neutral and totally independent justice system, Egypt strived to affirm the rule of justice and the primacy of law. It had drafted anti-crime legislation and launched programmes to rehabilitate criminals and integrate them as productive and effective elements in society, and to provide protection to children accused of committing crimes, whom it did not regard as juvenile delinquents. At the international level, Egypt had taken part in all the relevant conferences and was effectively implementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols.

47. The terrorist attacks that had taken place around the world in the past year, particularly in Sharm el Sheikh and more recently in Bali, had demonstrated the close link between crime prevention and counter-terrorism. More than ever, the international community must summon the political will to face those challenges and to combat terrorism on all fronts. In that context, he called for greater cooperation and coordination among counter-terrorism efforts by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention. He hoped that proposals to that effect would be submitted to the General Assembly at the forthcoming high-level meeting on counter-terrorism.

48. Egypt had studied in detail the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/60/130) and welcomed, in particular, its recommendations on achieving the objectives established at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. It also supported the recommendation on consolidating those achievements by removing existing procedural, logistical and technical obstacles. A global vision was needed to address a problem that jeopardized future economic and social development; its root causes must be analysed from a political, economic and social perspective.

49. It was already well known that Egypt was playing a vital role at the international and regional levels in the area of drug control. It had been one of the first countries to accede to the various international conventions, beginning with the International Opium Convention concluded at The Hague, and had participated in United Nations drug control activities. Its National Council on Drug Control was cooperating with the United Nations regional bureau in Cairo. As the global phenomena being discussed by the Committee were not limited to one specific country or region, broad and effective international cooperation was vital to the success of national efforts to combat crime, drug trafficking and terrorism in all their forms.

50. **Mr. Hashizume** (Japan) said that UNODC, whose work Japan strongly supported, could only implement its mandate fully unless donor confidence improved. To that end, it must create an accountable and transparent management system, including a strategic organizational plan with a clearly articulated programme of work, and prepare concise and comprehensive annual reports on its finances and activities.

51. His delegation welcomed the imminent entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and was preparing for the expeditious conclusion of formalities to ratify it as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols.

52. He praised the work accomplished by the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in April, and expressed support for the Bangkok Declaration. The Congress, the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), a United Nations regional institute based in Tokyo, had conducted a workshop on measures to combat economic crime. It was the Government's firm intention to continue providing support to UNAFEI and its activities.

53. In December 2004, Japan had adopted an action plan of measures to combat trafficking in persons, whose three pillars were: the prevention of trafficking in persons (including revised criteria for "entertainer" visas); the eradication of trafficking in persons by

alia, criminalizing it in the Penal Code, and the protection of trafficking victims. Japanese delegations had also visited a total of eight countries with a view to preventing trafficking in persons and to sharing information with Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and religious groups.

54. Japan consistently supported UNODC programmes and activities, in particular, through its annual contributions to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). In recent years Japan had witnessed a rapid increase in the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), such as methamphetamine and MDMA (ecstasy). It therefore had a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of drug abuse, which was strictly prohibited by law and severely punished. As a result, there had been a decrease in the number of heroin addicts. Japan was concerned about a "harm-reduction" approach, as it strongly believed that the international community must target drug demand reduction.

55. His delegation called for urgent measures to combat synthetic drugs, which, unlike traditional drugs, could be produced anywhere. He expressed grave concern that many such drugs and precursors were not subject to international conventions and stressed the importance of sharing information on them in order to develop effective countermeasures on an international scale. A resolution to that effect submitted to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs earlier in the year had been adopted by consensus.

56. Japan supported a "human-security" approach to combating international crime and the drug problem and hoped that that concept would eventually be mainstreamed into the work of the United Nations.

57. **Mr. Kyaw Tint Swe** (Myanmar) said that he was encouraged by the overall downward trend in the cultivation of illicit opium poppy and the coca bush since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. According to the UNODC World Drug Report, opium poppy cultivation in Myanmar had declined by 73 per cent between 1996 and 2004, while the United States Government reported that poppy cultivation in Myanmar had declined by 34 per cent in 2003-2004 alone. Over eight years, cultivation had dropped by 88 per cent, from 2,560 tons to an estimated 292 tons. Myanmar owed its success in fighting illicit narcotic drugs to political will and specific action in the areas of prevention, legislation and enforcement. Alternative development and cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels had also been decisive factors. Poppy cultivators who willingly submitted poppy seed to the authorities were given support for alternative cash crops under the New Destiny Project launched in April 2002. Myanmar had also signed memoranda of understanding with neighbouring countries on regional and subregional cooperation in the fight against narcotic drugs. In the area of demand reduction, the Government had taken measures to provide treatment, rehabilitation programmes and education campaigns for students and the general public.

58. Myanmar was addressing the issue of trafficking in persons through national legislation, a national plan of action and bilateral, regional and international cooperation. It had acceded to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, and a law to counter trafficking in persons drafted in accordance with the Convention had been enacted in September. At the regional level, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative (COMMIT) had been signed in Yangon in October 2004. Myanmar had also participated in the Bali Process. ASEAN member States had adopted the ASEAN Declaration against Trafficking in Persons, particularly Women and Children in November 2004.

59. **Mr. Al-Enezi** (Kuwait) said that Kuwait had become a State party to a number of international drug conventions owing to its awareness of the social and economic impact of narcotic drugs. The private sector and civil society had also contributed towards combating narcotic drugs, with the former providing funding for a Kuwaiti drug rehabilitation centre and the latter launching media campaigns focused on educating those at schools, universities and mosques about the dangers of narcotic drugs.

60. Pursuant to a legislative decree on money-laundering, a financial intelligence unit had been established within the Central Bank of Kuwait with national responsibility for combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. A number of decisions had already been issued by the Bank to prevent and combat money-laundering. Kuwait was also in the process of ratifying the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

61. The 2005 World Summit Outcome recognized that narcotic drugs posed a serious threat to humanity, requiring a collective international response. In that respect, he stressed the importance of strengthening UNODC and enhancing its ability to provide assistance to Member States in combating transnational organized crime.

62. **Ms. Brown** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the efforts of CARICOM States to counter the increasing challenges posed by transnational crime continued to be hampered by their limited financial and human resources. They therefore welcomed the recommendations of the Congress regarding the continued provision of technical assistance to developing countries, particularly with a view to strengthening their capacity to prevent crime, including economic and financial crimes. They also welcomed the recommendation that UNODC should provide technical assistance and training to States in order for them to deal with computer-related crimes and exchange information and research to counter such crime.

63. CARICOM States were well aware of their national, regional and international responsibilities to promote and implement the road map contained in the Bangkok Declaration and they appreciated the Declaration's clear intention to strengthen and increase international cooperation on crime prevention through the provision of technical assistance and the reinforcement of institutional machinery for the maintenance of criminal justice and the rule of law. In that respect, CARICOM States noted the recent approval by the Economic and Social Council for the General Assembly to endorse the Bangkok Declaration and invite Governments to consider legislation, policy directives and training material based on international standards and best practices for the effective implementation of the Declaration.

64. CARICOM States were encouraged by the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (A/60/131) and supported the initiatives to broaden the Programme's donor base and channel improved technical assistance to the region. They welcomed the Secretary-General's review of efforts to strengthen the capacity of States to ratify and implement relevant legal instruments. They also welcomed the recent entry into force of the Firearms Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

65. A number of CARICOM States had signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption and others were considering doing so. CARICOM States supported the efforts of UNODC and other relevant bodies to promote ratification of the Convention and its early entry into force.

66. Despite the increased coordination and cooperation on drug controls in the region, most CARICOM States required further resources and technical assistance to establish legislative measures and implement fully their programmes and international obligations for the long-term control of illicit drugs and drugs trafficking. Nevertheless, CARICOM States were participating in bilateral and multilateral initiatives to combat crime and drugs.

67. The Caribbean Community had established an implementation agency for crime and security, which operated as a nerve centre for research, evaluation and monitoring, project development and implementation, and information centralization and dissemination. A regional task force on crime and security was also undertaking a comprehensive review of justice protection programmes.

68. The CARICOM secretariat and the Regional Task Force on Crime and Security had begun collaborating with the University of the West Indies on a joint study to assess the negative impact of the increasing number of criminal deportees who had recently been returned to CARICOM States. The outcome of the study would help the States to determine further initiatives they should adopt to address their security and other concerns.

69. **Mr. Dapkiunas** (Belarus) speaking on behalf of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), welcomed the successful outcome of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and said that the Bangkok Declaration was an important political instrument in that area. Over the following five years, the Declaration would serve as a global strategy for crime prevention as well as a useful guideline for the establishment of international standards. Most of the issues raised by the Declaration in the area of crime and criminal justice were in line with the tasks set out by the CIS countries in their interstate programme of joint measures to combat crime for the period 2005-2007.

70. The CIS countries would broaden their cooperation, particularly through their Coordination Bureau and Anti-Terrorist Centre, in order to combat the most dangerous types of crime in the region. The 2005 World Summit Outcome had confirmed the political will of world leaders, including those in the CIS countries, to combat transnational organized crime through collective efforts and, to that end, to strengthen UNODC.

71. He welcomed the recent strengthening of the international legal basis for cooperation in combating crime, particularly the entry into force of the Firearms Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In addition to participating in those instruments, more than half of the CIS countries had also already signed the new International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, which had been an initiative of the Russian Federation.

72. The CIS countries stood ready to develop any form of cooperation with United Nations bodies involved in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. They hoped for closer cooperation on drugs and crime with UNODC under the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and many of them required technical assistance to reduce the threat posed by transnational organized crime and terrorism.

73. Many CIS countries had adopted special national programmes to prevent and suppress illegal migration, human trafficking and the transborder weapons trade. In August 2005, the CIS Council of Heads of Governments had approved programmes of cooperation for the period 2005-2007 to combat illegal migration, terrorism and other forms of violent extremism. The CIS countries were constantly improving the treaty and legal basis for combating illegal migration, money-laundering, kidnapping, trafficking in humans, the trade in illicit weapons and other crimes. They were currently actively involved in drawing up a treaty to counter the legalization (laundering) of illegal funds and the financing of terrorism, agreements on cooperation to combat the illegal trade in weapons, ammunition and explosives and agreements on cooperation to combat the kidnapping of and trafficking in humans or in their organs and tissue for transplants. In June 2005 the CIS Council of Heads of Governments had also adopted an agreement on cooperation to combat taxation fraud, which had already been signed by a number of CIS countries.

74. **Mr. Muchemi** (Kenya) said that transnational crime remained a major global threat whose negative effects could not be overstated. No country was immune from transnational crime, which undercut any prospects for stable and economically viable societies and also jeopardized peace and security, human rights and the rule of law.

75. Kenya was encouraged by the commitment of the United Nations to tackle transnational crime through the development of relevant instruments, the provision of technical assistance and the exchange of experience. The Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held recently in Bangkok had demonstrated the international community's resolve to work collectively to eliminate transnational crime and had provided a crucial opportunity for it to exchange views and experience. His delegation fully endorsed the Bangkok Declaration, which laid the foundation for future action by the international community to strengthen international coordination and cooperation efforts in order to prevent and combat crime.

76. He urged those States that had not yet done so to become parties to the Firearms Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its other Protocols, and the 13 treaties relating to terrorism. Such action would facilitate the implementation of those instruments globally and boost international efforts to rid the world of transnational crime.

77. Kenya recognized the important role of UNODC in providing Member States with technical assistance, advisory services and other forms of assistance in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. He particularly appreciated the technical assistance received from UNODC for the development and promotion of anti-corruption policies and measures. He was also glad to note that UNODC had made it a priority to provide assistance in the training of law enforcement officials, investigators, prosecutors and judges with a view to strengthening law enforcement and fostering international and cross-border cooperation.

78. While his delegation welcomed the fact that the donor base of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme had continued to grow and broaden, it called upon those countries able to do so to enhance their voluntary contributions to allow the Programme greater flexibility to respond to growing requests for technical assistance.

79. Domestically, with the support of international funding institutions, the Kenyan Government was undertaking sector-wide reforms to promote good governance, the administration of justice and the protection of human rights. The Kenyan anti-corruption authority, whose mandate included the investigation of corruption cases, had been established and was fully operational. Special courts had been established for the prosecution of corruption cases, several of which were pending. The National Agency for the Campaign against Drug Abuse was a Government agency established to coordinate efforts to counter drug abuse countrywide. The agency was carrying out public awareness campaigns and developing demand reduction strategies. An anti-narcotics police unit was also in place. Draft legislation on money-laundering had been finalized and was awaiting debate by the Parliament. A specialized prosecution unit had also been established at the Office of the Attorney General to prosecute terrorism and money-laundering cases and to deal with the forfeiture of assets emanating from terrorist activities.

80. **Mr. Salov** (Russian Federation) said that globalization and technical progress had increased the geographical reach of criminal groups and had allowed them to use more effective criminal methods. Organized crime and illicit drugs trafficking provided supportive mechanisms for terrorist groups and made it more difficult for States to address urgent issues of security and development. The Russian Federation fully supported the conclusions of the 2005 World Summit Outcome on the need for a comprehensive increase in collective measures to combat transnational crime. The new global threat would only be countered effectively through the implementation of an integrated United Nations strategy based on international law.

81. The Russian Federation placed a high value on the outcome of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok and supported the principles and objectives set out in the Bangkok Declaration. It gave particular importance to measures to strengthen the international legal basis in the fight against organized crime. In that connection, it supported the process of increasing the number of parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three additional Protocols. It also supported the call for consistent implementation by States of those instruments.

82. The forthcoming entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the model bilateral agreement on the sharing of confiscated proceeds of crime or property provided a basis for establishing universal international standards in the area of transnational crime. In that connection, the Russian Federation supported the efforts to further develop the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and intended to continue close cooperation in that area, including through international regional cooperation.

83. The Russian Federation was firmly committed to the decisions of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and consistently advocated the further development of international cooperation to suppress illicit drugs trafficking and combat drug abuse under the aegis of the United Nations. However, despite the efforts it had undertaken, the international community had not prevented the production of heroin in Afghanistan. The international community should therefore undertake renewed efforts to develop and implement an integrated international strategy, with the cooperation of Afghan authorities, in order to establish a reliable anti-drugs infrastructure in Afghanistan and strengthen the anti-drugs security belt along that country's borders. UNODC had a central role to play in coordinating those efforts, and his delegation also attached particular importance to the further development of the Paris process in that respect. Effective and timely preventive measures would also be required from the international community to counter the increasing flow of synthetic drugs to the Russian Federation from Europe.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations A/C.3/60/SR.7

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

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Third Committee

Summary record of the 7th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 7 October 2005, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Butagira ..... (Uganda)

Contents

Agenda item 106: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*)*

Agenda item 107: International drug control (*continued*)*

* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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05-53974 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 106: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/60/123, 131, 157, 164, 172, A/60/403-S/2005/6211 and A/60/405-S/2005/6231)

Agenda item 107: International drug control (*continued*) (A/60/129, 130, 336, A/60/403-S/2005/6211 and A/60/405-S/2005/6231)

1. **Ms. Henouda** (Algeria) said that according to recent data the abuse of illicit drugs and other amphetamine-type stimulants was growing steadily worldwide. Despite major efforts, much remained to be done, as noted in the Secretary-General's report on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/60/130).

2. Algeria, which was an active participant in the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, remained concerned about the threat posed by drug trafficking. Its territory was used as a transit country, leading to increased drug consumption among its own people. Moreover, it had become clear that drug trafficking was linked to terrorism and other crimes. The situation therefore required more effective international cooperation and the provision of assistance to transit countries and countries that had introduced replacement crops.

3. Algeria continued to support the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as the leading coordination and control body on drugs and urged the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to do all it could to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa due to drug use. Domestically, Algeria had set up a national office to fight drugs and drug abuse, introduced legislation on the use of and trafficking in drugs, and adopted a national plan of action against drug abuse.

4. The entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three additional protocols and the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption represented a major victory for the United Nations and a significant step in the international community's efforts to combat crime. Algeria was preparing to incorporate the provisions of the latter Convention into its legislation, and a draft law on preventing and combating corruption would soon be submitted to legislators.

5. Algeria had always believed that the fight against crime and terrorism required a comprehensive and collective approach, and would continue its efforts within the United Nations, as well as in regional contexts. It supported the Bangkok Declaration adopted in April 2005 by the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the Secretary-General's recommendation, contained in document A/60/131, that there was a need to reaffirm the high priority of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with respect to the enhancement of technical cooperation and the provision of technical advisory services to Member States.

6. **Mr. Farrar** (United States of America) said that over the past year the United Nations and its Member States had justifiably focused on the international threats posed by organized crime and drug trafficking. However, political commitment required corresponding legal mechanisms. In that spirit, Member States were making important progress by ratifying and implementing international legal instruments, and his delegation appreciated the tireless efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in promoting their application.

7. Governments that had signed and ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime should be committed to sharing their results. One of the main objectives of the Convention was to share the confiscated proceeds of crime, which was one of the most effective strategies for fighting international crime. In that regard, his delegation encouraged Member States to adopt the model bilateral agreement on sharing confiscated proceeds of crime or property. The United Nations Convention against Corruption would be a fundamental part of efforts to tackle the corrupt practices that exacerbated organized crime and hindered development. However, although such instruments were significant elements of a comprehensive global strategy, they were only part of the solution. They must be complemented by technical assistance to States in implementing goals of the Convention.

8. The United States was committed to combating narcotics production and trafficking, both domestically and internationally, and welcomed the very positive efforts of UNODC in supporting international initiatives to reduce the cultivation of coca and opium

poppy in the Andean countries and to confront opium production in Afghanistan.

9. At the domestic level, the United States had recently announced new initiatives to combat methamphetamine use. However, greater international cooperation was needed to control the precursor chemicals. The United States supported the introduction of more thorough controls over the flow of precursor chemicals, and wished to note the effectiveness of the International Narcotics Control Board's Databank on Precursor Chemical Control. The United States encouraged Member States to support similar efforts on both a unilateral and a multilateral basis, and also looked forward to working bilaterally with other nations that produced precursors, and medications containing them, to reduce the diversion of such products into the production of amphetamine-type stimulants.

10. **Mr. Rahman** (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), recalled that the Vientiane Action Programme adopted by ASEAN leaders in November 2004 gave priority to the establishment of coordination mechanisms to strengthen non-traditional cooperation in addressing security and transnational crimes. It also contained several elements that would be used in drafting an ASEAN convention on counter-terrorism. ASEAN had taken practical steps to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation and had strengthened its financial regulatory and legal frameworks to cut off terrorists from their resource base. Furthermore, it had recently concluded a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

11. ASEAN had consistently supported the leading role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security and countering terrorism. Following the adoption of the 1997 ASEAN Declaration against Transnational Crime, it had initiated various mechanisms to address all aspects of transnational crime. In addition to intraregional cooperation, it had instituted extraregional mechanisms and enhanced its cooperation with the international community. It welcomed the success of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok in April 2005, and hoped that Member States would seek to implement the policy directives set forth in the Bangkok Declaration.

12. ASEAN member countries were committed to combating drug abuse in order to achieve the goal of a drug-free ASEAN by 2015. It continued to work with its partners, as well as with UNODC and with other regional organizations and NGOs in order to combat the drug menace. For example, ASEAN and China had initiated the ASEAN and China Cooperative Operations in Response to Dangerous Drugs (ACCORD) in October 2000. The updated ACCORD Plan of Action, which would be introduced at the forthcoming ministerial-level Second ACCORD Congress, was expected to focus on specific areas of cooperation among the ACCORD countries.

13. **Mr. Abu Sif** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) expressed his delegation's support for the Bangkok Declaration adopted at the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three additional protocols. He welcomed the Secretary-General's report on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/60/123). In view of the impact of illicit trafficking in persons, illicit immigration and organized crime on the sustainable development of African countries, his delegation hoped that the United Nations would provide the Institute with the necessary financial support. Developing countries required technical assistance to implement the various international conventions against drugs and crime. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would soon introduce legislation incorporating the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

14. As emphasized by the Secretary-General in his report (A/60/130), the problem of drug abuse posed a serious threat to public health and safety and the well-being of humankind, particularly children and young people, and recognized no borders. In developing countries, there was a close link between drug abuse and poverty. The international community should assist such countries in halting the cultivation of those drugs. Illicit drug trafficking was a global phenomenon which required the strengthening of shared responsibility.

15. Although Libya did not produce drugs, it had become a transit region for drug trafficking and distribution. In consequence, drug abuse had been imported into the country, which had until recent years been completely drug free. Since the late 1980s drug addiction had continued to grow and the Government

had introduced programmes to raise awareness of the problem. Libya was keen to sign all relevant conventions and to participate in all mechanisms and at all levels to combat drugs, and called on donor countries and international financial institutions to support developing countries in combating crime and drug trafficking.

16. **Mr. Amorós Núñez** (Cuba), said that, while the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok in April 2005, had explored the root causes of crime, it had failed to demonstrate that globalization, which was subject to the unjust neoliberal doctrines imposed by the main imperialist Powers, had boosted crime to levels that exceeded the ability of States to tackle it. The international community was not winning the fight against crime. It had lacked the capacity to tackle the root causes and failed to allocate the resources needed for a preventive approach to succeed. The major Powers, meanwhile, had eluded their responsibilities, adopting the easy but dangerous role of judge, if not police.

17. The manifestations of transnational organized crime had reached such a magnitude that no country could combat them alone, not even with the most sophisticated military and intelligence-related technologies. According to estimates, the most powerful international criminal organizations were earning $1.5 billion a year, while the illicit traffic in women and girls generated profits of $7 billion a year worldwide. Two to five per cent of global GDP came from money-laundering. The illicit drug trade accounted for $400 billion — or 8 per cent of world trade — while the consumption of such drugs affected nearly 5 per cent of the world's population over the age of 15. Cuba was convinced that those problems could be solved, but only through international cooperation.

18. Much would already have been achieved if the principle of shared responsibility had become a reality. However, some powerful countries continued with their unilateral practices of granting "certificates of good behaviour", which served merely to transfer their guilt or as a pretext for imposing politically motivated coercive measures on developing countries, which interfered with law enforcement, rather than helping tackle international crime. Much more would have been achieved by promoting cooperation in establishing fair, democratic, equitable and solidarity-based national and international systems that prioritized investment in the education and well-being of all, without exclusion or discrimination. Much more progress would have been made against terrorism had the international community renounced the use of terror from a position of power and the threat and use of force under the protection of military superiority and rejected doctrines based on illegal prerogatives such as the supposed "right" to wage "preventive war". War destroyed nations and exacerbated poverty, inequality, injustice, hunger, corruption and terrorism.

19. Powerful countries affected by such ills as drug trafficking, money-laundering, trafficking in women and terrorism did the least to create an atmosphere of genuine international cooperation. For example, in the United States — the country with the highest rate of illicit drug consumption — there were over 16 million consumers above the age of 12, representing a social cost of over $160 billion a year. Every year, 260 tons of cocaine and 13 tons of heroine were consumed, while $36 billion were spent on cocaine, $11 billion on marihuana, $10 billion on heroine and over $5 billion on methamphetamines. The United States also had a law which applied only to Cubans and promoted illegal and unsafe migration. It had also suffered the attacks of 11 September 2001 and yet continued to protect Luis Posada Carriles, the most notorious terrorist in the Western hemisphere.

20. Despite the suffering caused by the embargo, Cuba had made considerable progress on crime prevention, criminal justice and the world drug problem. Cuban legislation prevented and severely penalized money-laundering, trafficking in arms and illicit drugs, and other forms of organized crime. Its institutions were well known for their lack of corruption, good governance, transparency and accountability and represented the true meaning of public service. Cuba continued to improve general education as a cornerstone of crime prevention and had set up an ambitious teaching programme in prisons with a view to the social reintegration of prisoners.

21. Cuba actively participated in multilateral forums and mechanisms on transnational crime and drugs and had concluded bilateral cooperation agreements with dozens of States. It had also repeatedly stated its willingness to cooperate with the United States on combating drug trafficking, terrorism and illicit traffic in persons, but the concrete proposals that it had drawn up to that effect had been rejected by the United States Government, even though the United States stood to

benefit most. Despite the embargo and United States aggressions, Cuba would continue to fulfil its duty in combating such scourges and would make every effort to prevent its territory from being used to carry out criminal actions against the American people or any other people.

22. **Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol** (Thailand), said that there was a need to address the root causes of crime, particularly poverty, human rights abuses and development disparities. Force and legal measures alone would not suffice. Attention should also be given to preventive measures such as the promotion of values, tolerance and understanding. Moreover, Governments should encourage active community participation and work closely with civil society to prevent crime, deal with offenders and reintegrate victims into society. Thailand had introduced proactive criminal diversion and decriminalization measures, relating in particular to community and restorative justice, the modernization of criminal justice and the rehabilitation of offenders.

23. International cooperation in fighting crime also needed to be strengthened, as no country could deal with crime, particularly transnational crime, alone. Greater attention should also be given to the exchange of information, experiences and best practices among States and organizations. The dynamic and substantive exchange of views at the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice — hosted by Thailand in April 2005 — demonstrated what the international community could achieve when all parties joined hands. Moreover, its outcome document — the Bangkok Declaration — could serve as a good basis for concerted efforts to improve cooperation and coordination among States, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. In that regard, she invited all States to take account of the policy commitments contained in the Declaration when formulating domestic legislation and policy directives, and to make every effort to implement the principles contained in the Declaration. Her delegation also intended to submit a draft resolution on follow-up to the Congress, and counted on the wide support of Member States.

24. The last prerequisite was full compliance by States with their international commitments. In that regard, Thailand had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Domestic procedures were also being undertaken to allow for ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Nevertheless, finding a balance between international commitments and domestic constraints when formulating national crime-prevention measures and strategies could be a tough challenge. To be effective, domestic practices based on international obligations should empower the relevant authorities to prevent, investigate and prosecute not only traditional crimes, but also emerging criminal activities such as cybercrime and economic and financial crimes. Priority should also be given to judicial integrity and international cooperation on the confiscation, recovery and return of assets and the proceeds of crime. The international community stood to greatly benefit from assisting States in meeting their international obligations.

25. Noting that, at the 2005 World Summit, world leaders had resolved to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to provide assistance to Member States upon request, she said that her delegation noted with interest that contributions and pledges to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund from January 2004 to January 2005 had doubled over the same period for the previous year. She thanked donor countries and supported the view that such contributions — mostly earmarked for specific activities — should be geared more towards general-purpose funds in order to support implementation of technical cooperation activities and allow greater flexibility when responding to the growing requests for technical assistance.

26. **Mr. Toro Jiménez** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Andean Community, said that combating the world drug problem and related crimes required the full participation of the international community, in accordance with the principles of shared responsibility, comprehensiveness, balance, multilateralism, international cooperation and respect for national sovereignty. The Andean Community therefore advocated greater international cooperation through the establishment of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms that strengthened the response to such challenges. Consideration of the world drug problem should not be

limited to supply and demand, but must include all stages of the process and related crimes, such as diversion of precursor chemicals, money-laundering and illicit arms trafficking. It was also important for drug-consuming countries to take decisive action so that production could be controlled. A comprehensive and balanced approach based on the principle of shared responsibility was needed. To that end, multilateral organizations should develop strategies for providing technical and financial assistance to the affected countries, particularly developing countries.

27. The world drug problem generated social and political instability and was an additional challenge for development. The report by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) demonstrated once again the extent to which trafficking in illicit drugs was linked to organized crime. It was therefore important for the United Nations and the world to recognize "the increasing links between terrorism and drug trafficking", as mentioned in paragraph 69 of the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization (A/60/1). By targeting transnational organized crime, the international community would also be targeting the sources of terrorism financing.

28. The Andean Community had adopted a Programme of Action and established counter-narcotics projects and priorities. The Programme sought to improve the national management and coordination capacity of the relevant authorities through, inter alia, the establishment or strengthening of financial-intelligence units, the creation of the Andean Committee on Assistance and Police Cooperation, improved information exchange and cooperation between public prosecutor's offices, the adoption of a legal instrument to prevent the diversion of precursor chemicals, increased decentralization of demand-reduction programmes, and the creation or strengthening of national and Andean monitoring centres for drugs. The Andean Community and the European Union had also established an important mechanism for intraregional cooperation in the fight against drugs.

29. The Andean Community had also adopted the Andean Strategy for Comprehensive and Sustainable Alternative Development, which reaffirmed the principle of shared responsibility and tackled drugs from a comprehensive and sustainable perspective. It converted alternative development into a participatory and effective instrument for human development and the fight against poverty, and enabled campesinos who abandoned illicit crops to find alternative livelihoods, thereby preventing the appearance or reappearance of illicit crops. The Andean Community's members were the only countries in the world to have achieved results in the fight against the world drug problem. Moreover, it was the only region in the world where, according to various UNODC reports, drug cultivation and production had fallen. Cooperation needed to be comprehensive in order to tackle the different stages of the problem.

30. It was important to strengthen alternative-development programmes through national investments and international cooperation. Such programmes, which ranged from education and technical training to community production projects and environmental protection, had a direct impact on individuals and communities, hence the importance of strengthening them and prioritizing them in cooperation strategies to end the world drug problem. In their efforts to resolve the drug problem and related crimes, States could not establish parameters by which to assess the efforts and commitment of others in combating illicit drugs. The Andean Community therefore reiterated its full support for multilateral assessment mechanisms. Lastly, it reaffirmed its commitment to continue combating drugs and called on all consuming countries to continue implementing effective policies to control the demand for illicit drugs.

31. **Mr. Lim** (Singapore) said that trafficking in and abuse of drugs transcended national boundaries, aided by ever-improving transport and communication. The drug trade had all the characteristics of a thriving enterprise, with buoyant demand, steady supplies and no shortage of investment. As the Political Declaration on global drug control adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly had emphasized, individual countries must establish suitable enforcement and legal systems, but also work with other countries to share the responsibility for confronting the phenomenon.

32. Singapore's comprehensive approach, which addressed demand and supply simultaneously, had evolved into a four-pronged strategy of rigorously enforced anti-drug legislation, preventive education, compulsory treatment and rehabilitation and continued aftercare. Specific provisions in domestic anti-drug legislation enabled traffickers to be detained even if witnesses were too intimidated to testify against them.

and also enabled action to be taken against those who consumed drugs abroad. Preventive education was targeted at the general public, particularly schools, while drug-rehabilitation centres tailored their treatment to different categories of drug abusers. Recognizing that former addicts must break the cycle of drug abuse, find jobs and reintegrate into society, the Government also ensured that half-way houses, training and work opportunities were available. Singapore was pleased that, compared to many countries in Asia or Europe, it had a low prevalence of drug abuse, according to the 2005 United Nations World Drug Report.

33. Singapore was a party to the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and the 1988 Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Although it did not itself produce drug precursors, it had established a precursor-control unit to monitor movement of precursor chemicals, and cooperated with international partners to exchange information and conduct joint investigations and operations, including those coordinated by the International Narcotics Control Board. The evolving drug threat, which involved increasingly popular non-traditional synthetic drugs such as Ecstasy and methamphetamines, made Singapore all the more committed to refining domestic and global anti-drug strategies.

34. **Mr. El Kadiri** (Morocco) said that Morocco was in the process of harmonizing its legislation with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. As a transit country on the trafficking route to Europe, Morocco placed particular emphasis on the supplementary Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, and urged consultation among countries of origin, transit and destination on possible approaches to what had become a global problem.

35. Morocco was in the process of ratifying the United Nations Convention against Corruption. At the end of 2004, jointly with UNODC, it had organized a national seminar on combating drugs, transnational organized crime, corruption and terrorism. With regard to the last of those issues, in compliance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), Morocco had signed and ratified most of the conventions on combating terrorism. It continued to campaign for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism to be concluded rapidly. Morocco's counter-terrorism law, adopted in the wake of the terrorist attacks in Casablanca and discussed with non-governmental organizations, defined terrorism as any act aimed at harming public order through destruction, fear or violence, and preserved all the protections of human rights contained in existing legislation. To facilitate coordination and information, and to implement United Nations resolutions, Morocco had set up an inter-ministerial counter-terrorism structure.

36. The absence of mechanisms for mutual legal assistance hindered efforts to prevent terrorism and other forms of transnational organized crime. Morocco, conscious of its international obligations, supported the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to assess such cooperation, and had itself concluded mutual legal assistance agreements with a number of Western and Arab countries. To reinforce its criminal-justice system, it had enacted a new criminal code and a new code of criminal procedure. It worked continuously to improve the administration of justice and bolster the rule of law, and had drafted laws to counter money-laundering and corruption, to add to its arsenal of legal instruments to combat drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism more effectively.

37. **Mr. Shin** (Republic of Korea) said that organized crime, corruption and terrorism were transnational, multidimensional and frequently intertwined. The Republic of Korea supported the leading role of the United Nations in fighting those problems, and called for cooperation and common responsibility at international, regional and national levels. It was working to ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and was introducing legislation and policies, including an anti-corruption act. Having itself ratified the 12 major conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, the Republic of Korea hoped that they would become universal in the near future.

38. UNODC should work to promote the ratification of those conventions and improve international cooperation in criminal matters, especially extradition and mutual legal assistance. It must also increase operational activities to assist developing countries, countries emerging from conflict and, particularly, least developed countries. Technical assistance helped to fill the legal vacuum in post-conflict situations and encouraged countries to establish a basis for good

governance, the rule of law and protection of human rights. It hoped that the United Nations review of potential comprehensive draft model codes for post-conflict criminal justice (transitional codes) would be successfully completed.

39. Integrated and measurable approaches were needed to combat drug-related threats cutting across borders and regions. On the supply side, the international community must strengthen law enforcement and help find alternatives to drug production through economic and social assistance. To increase pressure on the supply side, demand should be reduced through prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and harm-reduction measures. The Republic of Korea hoped that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the international community would pay more attention to the trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors, and to the proliferation of blood-borne diseases.

40. The Republic of Korea had adopted a national drug-control strategy based on the guidance of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Political Declaration on global drug control adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. It aimed to reduce drug demand and cut off illegal drug supplies through cooperation at national and international levels. International law enforcement authorities should examine how to strengthen international cooperation in criminal justice, mutual assistance and extradition, in order to deal with new criminal developments including cybercrime and money-laundering, and the United Nations should continue efforts to establish international norms to keep pace with emerging criminal trends.

41. **Mr. Dall'oglio** (Permanent Observer for the International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that IOM provided ways of conducting dialogue between States and achieving more harmonized approaches to reducing transnational organized crime connected with migration. It also helped Governments to address corruption in areas of governance linked to the management of migration. The report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity (A/60/131), had contributed to inter-agency and national planning efforts in that regard, but IOM wished more attention to be paid to smuggling of migrants, as distinct from trafficking in human beings, and particularly to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea. Smuggling of migrants was widespread, malicious and financially significant enough to threaten normal governance and potentially affect national and international security.

42. Rapid advances in migration management technology could help to combat abuses which benefited smuggling and trafficking networks, but IOM, concerned that access to such technology was uneven, wished countries with fewer resources to receive appropriate technical and financial support: the potential gap in technology created a potential gap in cooperation among States in combating transnational organized crime. In addition, IOM believed that trafficking in persons must be addressed from a human rights perspective, rather than a law enforcement perspective. Law enforcement agencies' efforts to prosecute traffickers must not be at the expense of the safety and well-being of victims, as the best evidence against traffickers remained the testimony of the individuals they had trafficked. By taking a victim-centred approach, law enforcement agencies had the best chance of bringing traffickers to justice and bringing justice to their victims.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

United Nations A/C.3/60/SR.8

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Summary record of the 8th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 October 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Butagira (Uganda)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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05-54139 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 106: Crime prevention and criminal justice *(continued)* (A/60/123, 131, 157, 164, 172, A/60/403-S/2005/621 and A/60/405-S/2005/623)

Agenda item 107: International drug control *(continued)* (A/60/129, 130, 136, A/60/403-S/2005/621 and A/60/405-S/2005/623)

1. **Mr. Navoti** (Fiji) said that Fiji supported the recommendations of the Bangkok Declaration adopted at the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, including the call for technical assistance to be made available to developing countries to fight economic and financial crimes. His delegation also welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity (A/60/131).

2. His delegation commended the efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other agencies to assist States in strengthening law enforcement and to foster international and cross-border cooperation. As a follow-up to the Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime held in Bali in 2004, Fiji had hosted a workshop, co-organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on reconciling the legitimate State interest to control immigration with refugee protection.

3. His Government supported the United Nations Convention against Corruption and had endorsed the anti-corruption action plan for Asia and the Pacific. Parliament was currently considering a host of issues relevant to the fight against corruption, including extending the scope of international cooperation and mutual assistance in criminal matters beyond New Zealand and Australia, the development of codes of ethics and "whistleblower" legislation. His Government would also establish an independent anti-corruption commission.

4. Terrorism, one of the major challenges facing the international community, required a coordinated and comprehensive international response. To eliminate its root causes, the international community must address legitimate grievances caused by despair, resentment, ignorance and poverty and foster international relations based on sovereign equality, multilateralism, justice and sustainable development. As part of the global effort, Fiji would be hosting the eighth meeting of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering later in October.

5. His delegation commended the Secretary-General's report on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/60/130) and supported the call by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the international community to be innovative in its follow-up on the twentieth special session. Fiji continued to be vigilant in combating the criminal use of its islands as a transit haven for international drug trafficking. For example, the Fiji police, working with counterparts from Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand, had recently suppressed a crystal methamphetamine drug operation worth over $500 million. Lastly, his Government reaffirmed its commitment to cooperating with the international community to formulate comprehensive measures to prevent crime and to promote international justice.

6. **Mr. Ritter** (Liechtenstein) said that transnational organized crime, as a major threat to international peace and security, must be tackled at all levels. The role of the United Nations was to enhance the effectiveness of countermeasures taken worldwide against such crime, which could be achieved through enhanced coordination and increased technical assistance to Member States which lack the necessary capacity.

7. Liechtenstein had been supporting the capacity-building activities of UNODC through financial contributions and training seminars. His Government had decided in 2005 to allocate $1.4 million to UNODC activities for the coming four years. An essential part of those funds would be used for alternative livelihood projects in Afghanistan as well as for the Global Programme against Money-Laundering. The programme had recognized the importance of financial intelligence capacity-building and had made technical assistance and training for financial-intelligence units a priority. His delegation welcomed such an approach as those units served as a link between law enforcement and financial and regulatory authorities, providing authorities around the world with an important new avenue for the gathering and exchange of information related to money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

8. Adequate involvement of the private sector in the design of preventive countermeasures was of crucial importance in the fight against money-laundering and corruption. In order to curb corruption, there was a need to promote a culture of integrity and accountability in both the public and the private sector. Public authorities were called upon to lead those efforts by ensuring good governance and upholding the rule of law.

9. The High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change had recognized that the response of the international community to organized crime during and after conflict had been decentralized and fragmented. In post-war periods, former belligerents often sought to exploit criminal connections and know-how developed during the war, thus undermining international peacebuilding efforts. It would therefore be of great importance for the Peacebuilding Commission established by the 2005 World Summit to pay particular attention to the development and implementation of measures to suppress existing ties between criminal enterprises and political elites. The peacebuilding commission would be called upon to assist countries emerging from conflict in ensuring that re-established State institutions were corruption-free and justice was delivered fairly.

10. **Ms. Feller** (Mexico) said that organized crime and drug trafficking constituted a rising threat to social stability, the maintenance of the rule of law and economic and political development requiring not only national efforts but a multilateral international strategy as well. Her delegation therefore welcomed the forthcoming entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which was the first international instrument to address corruption comprehensively and globally.

11. Punitive measures against organized criminals and drug traffickers were not sufficient to prevent and deter organized crime. Alternative, preventive development and capacity-building programmes and awareness-raising campaigns encompassing both security forces and society in general were also indispensable, particularly within the framework of the international fight against drugs. Such strategies would not only help to reduce the supply of narcotics but also promote sustainable development. Unfortunately, however, efforts to reduce supply were not always matched by corresponding measures to curb demand. In addition, there was a need to develop policies geared to transit countries, whose populations were suffering increasingly from the kind of violence and social fragmentation that had traditionally affected only drug-producing and consuming countries.

12. Her delegation welcomed the renewed commitment of Member States, as set out in the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit (General Assembly resolution 60/1), to continue their efforts against drug trafficking and organized crime and to strengthen UNODC. To meet that commitment required the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as well as the 2008 goals put forward in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at the twentieth special session (resolution S-20/2, annex). Her Government also urged States that had not done so to ratify the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

13. Mexico would continue to be fully engaged in the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking and would introduce an omnibus draft resolution regarding international cooperation against the world drug problem. Her delegation would be looking forward to proposals from all delegations to strengthen the text and to put its provisions into practice.

14. **Mr. Popkov** (Belarus) said that his Government continued to support increasing international cooperation in the fight against various forms of criminal activities within the United Nations framework and appreciated the efforts of the UNODC Executive Director to strengthen the work of the Office. The elimination of trafficking in human beings and suppression of illegal migration and the illicit drug trade were priorities for his Government, as Belarus was particularly affected by such problems as a transit country.

15. The statement made by the President of Belarus on the need for the international community to increase its efforts to combat the trafficking in human beings was an extension of his Government's efforts at the national and international levels to counter that modern form of slavery. Millions of persons, most of whom

were women and children, fell prey to such trafficking every day.

16. Belarus had made great strides in introducing legislation in accordance with international laws and regulations governing the trafficking in human beings, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It had also developed a comprehensive national action plan to combat the trafficking in persons and the spread of prostitution for the period 2002-2007 and was carrying out international projects to suppress such trafficking and rehabilitate its victims.

17. His Government had encountered difficulties, however, in its cooperation with other States, including late responses to requests for legal assistance, which enabled criminals to avoid prosecution. His delegation therefore called on the United Nations to establish a global partnership against slavery and the trafficking in persons in the twenty-first century.

18. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs should give greater attention to the drug problem faced by transit countries. The transit nature of Belarus had brought about an 80 per cent increase in domestic drug use during the previous five years and a shift from trade in drugs containing natural derivatives to "harder" synthetic drugs. Belarus was at the crossroads of the opium-poppy trade from Afghanistan and South-East and Central Asia to Europe and of the synthetic-drugs traffic from Europe. Lastly, given its unique position, his Government recommended that the Resident Coordinator of the UNODC Regional Office for the Russian Federation and Belarus should be stationed directly in Belarus.

19. **Ms. Serazzi** (Chile) said that, while globalization had unquestionably been beneficial, it had also brought terrorism and organized crime, illicit trafficking in persons, drugs and arms, and related money-laundering. The international community was therefore called upon to exercise constant vigilance over the dynamic evolution of criminal activities so as to take joint action to address them in a timely manner. Her country reiterated its commitment to help strengthen international cooperation in the fight against national and international organized crime, corruption and terrorism on all fronts in accordance with international law. It had ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols on Trafficking in Persons and on Smuggling of Migrants and was preparing to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

20. The growing sophistication of economic and financial crimes imparted an alarming dimension to organized crime, which posed grave threats to national economies, the global financial system and the political stability of States; it was therefore necessary to adopt an integral and systemic approach to such phenomena as corruption and money-laundering. The time had come to focus global and national efforts on the enforcement of instruments designed to strengthen international criminal cooperation and on improving national systems that could facilitate mutual, rapid and efficient penal assistance. The Bangkok Crime Congress and the recent session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had both proved important forums for exchanging points of view and defining goals and policies.

21. Convinced that multilateral cooperation was the only road to success in fighting terrorism, which needed to be confronted with a global strategy in keeping with the United Nations Charter and international law and with full respect for human rights, Chile had reaffirmed the need, expressed in the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit, to develop such a strategy and to conclude negotiations on a general convention on terrorism. Its counter-terrorism efforts included ratification of 12 of the United Nations conventions and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and its recent signing of the Nuclear Terrorism Convention. It had also participated actively in the negotiations in the Sixth Committee and, more recently, as chair of the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee and as a member of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the international community's key instruments in that fight.

22. In recent decades, crime in Chile had come up against a priority policy involving integrated action by the State, civil society and the private sector for the prevention, control and punishment of crimes and the social rehabilitation and reintegration of those sentenced. The country's public-security policy was based on a broad spectrum of public and private inputs. One notable success had been the criminal-procedure reform, which had established an accusatorial criminal system based on the principles of oral intervention, immediacy, publicity and transparency, taking into

account special factors relating to young offenders and bringing legislation strictly into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

23. All States — whether producing, transit or consumer countries — were at risk from drug trafficking and its concomitant evils. There could be no effective drugs control without harmonized and coordinated efforts, which meant reducing supply as well as demand and developing capacities for combating a crime that profited from globalization, technological development, scientific progress and the opening-up of regional markets. The solution to the global drug problem therefore lay in international cooperation in all its forms and would depend in large measure on States' political will and capacity for cooperation. She welcomed the progress made on attainment of the 2008 goals.

24. Chile's commitment to combating the drug problem through strict respect for the Charter, especially for sovereignty and all fundamental freedoms, remained firm. It had endeavoured to streamline its legislation and had recently promulgated a new law as part of a strategy embracing the entire cycle of drug trafficking and including rehabilitation and consumption-prevention strategies. The new legislation also established the basic framework for controlling production, regulation and import and export of precursor chemicals. International cooperation for the eradication of illicit crops must be concentrated on training and education in alternative production so as to facilitate the sustainable development of affected countries. One such action had been the Twenty-third International Drug Enforcement Conference hosted by Chile in April 2005.

25. Given the enormous adverse consequences of the global crime and drugs problems for human safety, it was important to protect individuals — especially children and youth — and guarantee their security, which meant not only the absence of real or potential threats to them, but also a climate of support in which they could develop their potential.

26. **Mr. Melo** (Albania), associating his delegation with the statement made by the representative of the United Kingdom on behalf of the European Union, said that international crime posed a growing threat to global security, development and human rights. The outcome document of the 2005 World Summit rightly emphasized "the negative effects on development, peace and security and human rights posed by transnational crime" and the need for a collective response.

27. Albania was committed to combating all forms of trafficking in human beings at all levels. His Government was addressing the problem through its national legislation and efforts at the community level, including strategies against trafficking in human beings and child trafficking, as well as through bilateral and multilateral agreements.

28. Albania fully endorsed the World Summit call for enhancing international cooperation on migration issues and had developed a national strategy and action plan for that purpose. His Government was acutely aware of the need to address problems related to drugs and drug-trafficking effectively, as Albania had been used as a transit area, and had adopted a national strategy to combat drugs for the period 2004–2010.

29. Albania fully shared the view of the European Union that corruption was an obstacle to sustainable development and good governance. His Government had therefore declared the fight against corruption a top priority. Vigorous anti-corruption policies would be complemented by comprehensive preventive policies based on transparency, broader participation in decision-making and oversight by civil society. His Government also planned to review the level of State involvement in the economy to minimize the bureaucracy and administrative barriers and strengthen the role of the private sector and civil society.

30. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan), speaking on behalf of seven States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) — Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan — said that the world drug problem threatened the well-being of peoples, economic and political stability and efforts by the international community to strengthen peace and security. The growing trafficking in illicit drugs was closely related to illegal migration, organized crime and international terrorism.

31. His delegation attached great significance to enhancing the United Nations drug-control activities and welcomed the determination of Member States to overcome the world drug problem through international cooperation and national strategies to eliminate both the supply of and demand for illicit drugs. His Government also commended the decision

taken at the 2005 World Summit to strengthen the capacity of UNODC, and would be closely considering the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-eighth session (E/2005/28/Rev.1).

32. His Government was coordinating and conducting joint activities with CIS drug-control agencies and enhancing legal cooperation and bilateral and multilateral agreements between CIS countries. Kazakhstan was also strengthening subregional cooperation, inter alia through the establishment of a Central Asian drug-control data-gathering centre, and exchanging information and providing mutual assistance on combating illicit drugs.

33. His delegation shared the Secretary-General's view that the security situation in Afghanistan remained a matter of great concern, as the "northern route" extending through the territories of Central Asia and the Russian Federation was one of the main routes for drugs from Afghanistan to the CIS and Europe. Most heroin entering the CIS had originated in Afghanistan. His Government would therefore continue efforts to strengthen its drug-control security belt around Afghanistan and supported further development of the Paris Pact initiative (S/2003/641) to suppress the trafficking in illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan backed the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen peace and security in the country and called on the United Nations to provide it with the necessary assistance to settle the conflict there. For its part, his Government stood ready to work with the United Nations and all Member States to increase cooperation and establish a united front against illicit drugs.

34. **Mr. Chowdhury** (Bangladesh) said that the universal threat of transnational crime, which embraced a plethora of criminal activities, posed a serious threat to development, peace and security. In its unflinching commitment to fighting such crime, his country not only supported international and regional efforts, but had also taken legislative and other measures to clamp down on such activities. Its Independent Anti-Corruption Commission investigated offences under the Anti-Corruption Act 2004 and offences punishable under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1947 and could initiate an investigation into any report of malpractice. It also created public awareness of its role through seminars, symposiums and workshops.

35. Bangladesh had ratified 12 United Nations conventions on terrorism and was a party to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. It had also enacted the Money-Laundering Prevention Act in 2002, in line with the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The Government had ratified the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution in 2002, as well as the three major United Nations drug conventions and the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. It had also concluded a number of bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding with a view to banning drug trafficking and the diversion of precursor chemicals, and stood ready to further its cooperation with Member States and international organizations.

36. Bangladeshi law imposed strict penalties on drug offenders, and a number of laws had been enacted to counter drug trafficking, including the Narcotics Control (Amendment) Act 2000, which incorporated the relevant provisions of the 1988 United Nations Drug Convention and limiting the period of drug-case investigations, and the Narcotics Control (Amendment) Act 2004 redefining alcohol. Imports of raw opium had been banned since 1984 and cannabis cultivation had been prohibited in 1987, followed by a complete ban on the storage, distribution, sale and consumption of cannabis in 1989. Those sanctions were reinforced by the Narcotics Control Act 1990, as amended, which now deemed psychotropic substances a controlled drug.

37. Stressing the need for coordinated measures for implementing the decisions and recommendations contained in the Bangkok Declaration of April 2005, he urged the United Nations to deepen its regional partnership and to provide funding and technical cooperation to developing countries in order to combat the global threats to peace and prosperity.

38. **Mr. Pekarchuk** (Ukraine) said his country shared the concern of the international community at the escalation of world crime and supported concerted actions for its prevention and elimination. According priority to the fight against crime and corruption, the Ukrainian authorities would continue to do their utmost to improve the national capacity to fight those evils and had developed active bilateral and multilateral cooperation in that regard. His country had ratified the

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and was in the process of ratifying the United Nations Convention against Corruption, both of which would give new impetus to the world community's potential to fight corruption.

39. The current session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, devoted to the development of mechanisms for implementing the Convention, should become a milestone in the strengthening of international cooperation in the fight against crime at the multilateral level, under the aegis of the United Nations. He also welcomed the outcome of the Bangkok Crime Congress and was confident that the Bangkok Declaration would provide ways of strengthening the criminal justice system and international cooperation in crime prevention so as to ensure the supremacy of law.

40. In its belief that terrorism threatened all that the United Nations stood for, as the Secretary-General had declared, Ukraine had become a party to 12 international conventions in its determination to eradicate the threat it posed to humanity. As one of the first signatories to the Nuclear Terrorism Convention, Ukraine had again demonstrated its readiness to join in efforts to avert such threats to humanity.

41. His country welcomed the establishment of the post of European Union Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and the adoption of the European Union programme to strengthen cooperation with partners in order to stimulate the efforts of its members and neighbouring States. It would cooperate actively with partners within the framework of that and other projects.

42. Ukraine also assigned priority to the activities of Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova in their regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism, confident that the Group could make a significant contribution to security and stability on the continent.

43. **Mr. Male** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the threats posed by drugs and crime were interlinked with other emerging factors in a global web of menaces — terrorism, poverty, HIV/AIDS and underdevelopment — that plagued many societies and needed to be addressed individually through forceful and comprehensive efforts by relevant institutions. Not all regions faced the same threats: while the major issues were ubiquitous, others such as poverty, underdevelopment, poor law enforcement and a weak judiciary might be the main reasons for the spread of drugs and crime in some societies. Countries were therefore constrained to develop approaches and initiatives that directed collective efforts tailored to the dynamics of their region.

44. For instance, given his country's particular circumstances as a main drug-transit route to the West, the authorities were compelled to focus on border control, strengthening law enforcement and increasing police capacities, coupled with other initiatives relating to development in all its dimensions. International and regional cooperation was clearly crucial in that domain.

45. His country had drastically increased the number of military and police operations at its borders and had spent over $80 million on fortifying its borders with Afghanistan, a move that had resulted in massive destruction of trafficking networks and the seizure of 290 tons of drugs. Dismantling of those networks was the most effective way to combat that evil, but required closer cooperation within the region, while success also depended on coordination and cooperation regarding swift and full exchange of information. To that end, his country had begun training Afghan narcotics police and building border roads and outposts at the two countries' shared borders. With Germany as the coordinator, one project would train 400 Afghan border police officers to be stationed at those outposts.

46. Determined to cooperate on the implementation of the 1961, 1971 and 1988 drug conventions, it had developed a specific framework through memoranda of understanding on cooperation with 35 countries. It had also received drug liaison officers from the United Kingdom and Italy in an attempt to enhance its international cooperation, while Iranian drug liaison officers had visited other countries. Iran had expanded its cooperation with the International Narcotics Control Board through supervision of the licit use of drugs for medical and scientific purposes.

47. In the area of harm reduction, the authorities had taken measures to protect victims, prioritizing addicts according to type, addiction period and degree of potential harm to themselves and society. The main concern was currently the treatment of intravenous drug users with high-risk activities. Efforts included the establishment of hundreds of outpatient centres treating many thousands of addicts; the nationwide

distribution of methadone tablets, support for non-governmental organizations and the operation of clinics in prisons, with syringe distribution, and after-care services catering to 128,000 prisoners.

48. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his Government's commitment to enhance its cooperation with the relevant countries and international organizations and stood ready to contribute to all undertakings to counter the drug menace.

49. **Ms. Al-Shamisi** (United Arab Emirates) said that, despite the efforts of the international community, the drug problem continued to pose a serious challenge to global health and the implementation of development programmes. Albeit welcome, the relative progress achieved in countering the problem should be furthered through more systematic and coordinated attempts to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation with a view to exchanging information, improving monitoring procedures and developing the legal and judicial systems in order to achieve the objectives set for 2008. Responsibility for the success of alternative-development programmes extended beyond those countries in which drugs commonly provided a basic source of income. In that context, she urged the developed countries to fulfil their commitments to strengthen their financial, technical and economic assistance in support of the anti-drug efforts of developing countries. The United Nations and its specialized agencies in particular should also play a greater role in strengthening and enforcing anti-drug laws, training law-enforcement officers and implementing prevention programmes, designed, for instance, to eliminate illicit drug cultivation, rehabilitate drug addicts or address other drug-related ills.

50. The United Arab Emirates had devoted great attention in its own national development plans to combating the problem of drugs and organized crime, evolving a firm strategy based specifically on such matters as the enactment of criminal legislation against illicit drug activities, the establishment of a criminal database, the organization of training courses for anti-drug personnel and the implementation of public awareness-raising, therapy and rehabilitation programmes, as well as the strengthening of its involvement in international efforts to fight such crime.

51. **Mr. Saeed** (Sudan) said that he welcomed the outcome of the Bangkok Crime Congress and stressed that international efforts in that field should respect the principles of the Charter, the rule of law and the sovereignty of States. The Sudan was working hard to enforce regional and international instruments on cooperation in the field of crime. In that context, it commended the valuable efforts of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the capacities of which should be further strengthened through provision of the necessary funding. It appreciated the progress achieved in the various aspects of international drug control and called for more regional and international cooperation with a view to promoting national efforts and plans in that sphere, in particular through the provision of technical assistance, judicial cooperation and capacity-building.

52. Although the Sudan had no serious drug problem, the transit of illicit drugs through its territory was always a possibility. Countermeasures in the field of legislation, awareness-raising and coordination with civil society organizations were therefore constantly being taken in order to limit that possibility. In conclusion, he called for renewal of the pledge for close cooperation, information exchange and coordinated efforts to combat crime, all of which were more vital than ever to the achievement of peace, security and stability in a world where crime knew no boundaries.

53. **Ms. Chenoweth** (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)) said that FAO had focused primarily on support of alternative development and alternative livelihoods, working closely with a number of partners, including UNODC, mainly in Afghanistan, other parts of Asia, and Latin America. Alternative-development experts had recognized the need for a strategic and coordinated approach in order to develop a strategy for better integration of drug analysis and objectives into the work of multilateral, national and non-governmental development organizations. In recent years, FAO and other international organizations had begun or increased their involvement in alternative development.

54. Two international workshops, to be hosted jointly by FAO and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation and funded by the European Union, would afford stakeholder networking, development of coordination, and counter-narcotics mainstreaming. They were expected to involve representatives of drug-control ministries or organizations, development

ministries, drug-crop-producing countries and international development organizations.

55. The first workshop, scheduled for March 2006 in Munich, would invite participants with wide experience in alternative development and concentrate on the overlap between conventional and alternative-development agendas and identification of areas of partnership between development and drug-control actors.

56. The second, scheduled for 2007, would emphasize counter-narcotics mainstreaming and would be attended by representatives of ministries in drug-crop-producing countries and international development organizations that were not yet involved in alternative development but were indispensable to the integration and implementation of counter-narcotics objectives.

57. Both workshops would enhance countries' capacity to prepare inputs for technical discussions on alternative development in both the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the General Assembly, as they sought to attain by 2008 the goals established at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

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Third Committee

Summary record of the 9th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 October 2005, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:	Mr. Butagira	(Uganda)
later:	Mr. Tomic (Vice-Chairman)	(Slovenia)
later:	Mr. Butagira	(Uganda)

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05-54145 (E)

Agenda item 61: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Agenda item 62: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family
(continued) (A/C.3/60/L.6 and L.7)

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.6, Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

4. **Ms. Brown** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution,

11. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Belarus and the Russian Federation had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Agenda item 106: Crime prevention and criminal justice (continued) (A/60/122, A/60/131, A/60/132, A/60/164, A/60/172, A/60/403/Add.2/Corr.1 and A/60/403/Add.3/Rev.1)

Agenda item 107: International drug control (continued) (A/60/126, A/60/156, A/60/166, A/60/403/Add.2/Corr.1 and A/60/403/Add.3/Rev.1)

12. **Mr. Puja** (Indonesia), introducing on agenda items 106 and 107, said that if the international community took the same action in the present and future as it had done in the past, it would reap the results of the past. It must cooperate effectively at all levels to combat transnational crime effectively. Criminals operating in different States had expanded their efforts, using information and communication technologies, to create global networks engaged in drug trafficking, human trafficking, money-laundering, corruption and other practices. When escaping from the law, they sought a safe haven in any part of the world.

13. Transnational criminal groups and terrorist networks must be dismantled so that they could not have a negative impact on development. The United Nations Millennium Declaration, the outcome of the 2005 World Summit and the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok in April 2005 had made clear that only cooperation would achieve that aim. Despite their commitment to multilateralism, the Member States were still having difficulty working together to share information, build institutional capacity, provide mutual support to law enforcement, provide training and implement extradition measures. There was, however, greater international collaboration in combating terrorism. That was important to Indonesia, which had again fallen victim to terrorism.

14. Indonesia had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two of its supplementary protocols. While it had not yet completed ratification procedures, all aspects of the Convention were observed in its everyday legal practice. Indonesia had also signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and was tackling the phenomenon on the basis of a presidential instruction, with the help of two anti-corruption teams. Efforts against drug trafficking, money-laundering and human trafficking had been intensified. Thanks to its effectiveness in dealing with money-laundering, Indonesia had been removed from the Financial Action Task Force list of Non-Cooperative Countries and Territories (NCCTs). As a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indonesia took active part in the organization's anti-crime projects and measures, which aimed to build regional capacity and facilitate information and intelligence-sharing. At the national level, it was careful to involve relevant agencies, civil society and the private sector in Government measures.

15. Believing that only a united, committed and seriously involved international community could legally restrain those who put profit before people and used illegal means to achieve their goals, Indonesia stood with those who condemned and actively opposed criminal networks across the globe.

16. **Mr. Sebalime** (Uganda), speaking on agenda item 106, said that the world should place at the top of its agenda the task of strengthening cooperation to curb what the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change had called the "diversity, flexibility, low visibility and longevity" of organized criminal networks. Terrorism, meanwhile, was one of the greatest threats to security and development. His delegation hoped that the proposals of the Secretary-General and of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok in April 2004 would result in international cooperation to overcome that threat.

17. Uganda particularly welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/60/123), an institution which, with the help of the United Nations and its Member States, development partners, the private sector and civil society, helped African countries to assess criminality trends in the region and their impact on development; formulate policies for prevention of crime, treatment of offenders and promotion of criminal justice reforms in the context of development; and encourage technical cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Africa was vulnerable, and needed such support to fight crime. If financial support to African regional and national initiatives was compromised, the world would never be free from threats to peace and security.

16. Uganda had acted to improve law and order, introducing an anti-terrorism act in 2002, seeking to widen legal-aid services throughout the country, using best practices in the court system and increasing the number of courts, State attorneys, magistrates and judges. Training for police units had improved police efficiency and public confidence in the force. Prisons were being rebuilt to improve conditions, and community service for petty crimes had reduced overcrowding. The Government was addressing crime and corruption through good governance, including devolution of powers to local governments.

17. The international community must cooperate to eliminate crime before it assumed ever more challenging forms, forcing future generations to live with syndicates that could not be broken up.

18. **Ms. Jones** (Montserrat), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

19. **Ms. Bethel** (Bahamas), speaking on agenda item 107, said that the Bahamas had consistently played its role in confronting the global menace of narcotic drugs. Although it was neither a producer of such drugs nor a major destination for them, its geographical location on the route between sources of supply in the south and the markets of the north had made it a transit point. In common with the rest of the Caribbean, it had therefore suffered the effects of the drug trade, including a rise in crime, particularly violent crime, and greater trade in small arms and light weapons. Such effects threatened its national security, social and economic development and way of life.

20. As the 2005 World Summit had acknowledged, transnational crime required a collective response. The Bahamas was a party to all the major international drug conventions, and was committed to implementing them and the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Transit States could not make a full contribution to global efforts without international assistance, hence the Bahamas called on all States to implement the Economic and Social Council resolutions on international assistance to the States most affected by the transit of drugs and to sustain their commitment to a fair and balanced approach to drug control, with strategies to reduce both supply and demand. The Bahamas was also an active participant in regional interdiction mechanisms.

21. The Bahamas had established a comprehensive legislative regime to criminalize narcotic drugs, facilitate international cooperation and prevent money laundering. Moreover, it devoted 12 per cent of its national budget to national security, most of which was allocated to law-enforcement and drug-interdiction efforts. The adoption of the Bahamas National Anti-Drug Plan 2004-2009 provided a significant boost to the coordination and enhancement of those efforts.

22. At the bilateral level, Operation Bahamas and Turks and Caicos (OPBAT) brought together law enforcement agencies from the United States, the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, and was regarded as a model in the region for cooperation in drug-interdiction activities. The Bahamas was set to continue to cooperate through such mechanisms, as well as through training and the exchange of information and intelligence.

23. Consistent with the principles adopted by the international community, the Bahamas had also tried to address the issue of demand reduction. The Bahamas National Drug Council, a quasi-government body, was mandated to lead national efforts in the areas of prevention, education, treatment and rehabilitation. As one of the world's premier offshore banking centres, the Bahamas was also determined to ensure that its banks and financial entities were well regulated and in compliance with international norms. The financial services industry was governed by a comprehensive legislative package designed to ensure that criminal networks did not exploit the industry in order to facilitate illicit activity.

24. **Mr. Vixay** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on agenda item 107, said that it had been five years earlier his country had signed an agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to launch a strategy aimed at eliminating opium production. The strategy had been extremely successful, especially in the area of supply reduction, and by May 2005 all the country's 10 provinces and one special economic zone had been declared free of opium production.

25. However, much remained to be done to ensure the sustainable elimination of illicit crops. The Government was also endeavouring to reduce demand by focusing its efforts on some 20,000 remaining opium addicts in the country. The Government and UNODC had adopted a three-year strategy (2006-2008) aimed at improving the livelihoods of former growers who had depended on the opium poppy for cash

income, providing comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation for opium addicts and preventive education for young people and stopping illicit drug production and trafficking, through adequate law-enforcement measures.

26. However, the challenges of eradicating drug trafficking and related crime in urban areas remained enormous. His country continued to be used as an important transit point for traffickers of amphetamine-type stimulants. The abuse of synthetic drugs had spread from the country's northern and central regions to its southern provinces, and the number of young addicts was rising. In response, the Government had launched an awareness-raising campaign in four southern provinces, and was also taking steps to improve its legal framework for drug control and strengthen its law-enforcement capacity to reduce drug trafficking throughout the country.

27. **Mr. Aksen** (Turkey), speaking on agenda items 106 and 107, said that transnational organized crime had risen significantly over the past two decades. As globalization proceeded, organized crime networks became more sophisticated and new forms of crime emerged. Combating organized crime required a coordinated and comprehensive international response, as well as measures taken at the national level. Turkey had introduced a number of domestic laws in order to tackle the problem, and was also a party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

28. Trafficking in human beings was a matter of growing concern. Turkey's new Penal Code, which had come into force on 1 June 2005, included an explicit definition of trafficking in human beings. A national task force had been established in 2002 to combat trafficking in human beings and had achieved considerable success. In order to tackle increasing corruption, the international community should intensify cooperation based on a strategy that addressed both the demand and supply sides of the problem.

29. The illicit use of drugs, particularly by young people, continued to be a major concern for the international community. Turkey had signed all the relevant United Nations drug-control treaties and had concluded bilateral cooperation agreements with 66 different countries. It also played an active role in most leading international drug control agencies, including UNODC, and the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC), established in 2000, had been effective in promoting cooperation at the regional level. Turkey continued to provide assistance to various countries with a view to strengthening their law-enforcement capacities and reducing the demand for illicit drugs.

30. Terrorism continued to pose a significant threat to global peace and security. Combating terrorism would require determined, effective and sustained international cooperation. He noted that various forms of organized crime, including drug trafficking, provided significant financial resources to terrorist groups. Turkey had been drawing attention to the link between organized crime and terrorism for many years, and was pleased to see that the link was now being recognized by the international community.

31. **Ms. Holguín Cuéllar** (Colombia), speaking on agenda item 107, said that because the problem of illicit drugs was global in nature, it required the application of the principle of shared responsibility at every stage, from production to consumption. As the problem was linked to transnational organized crime and terrorism, there was a need for a more integrated response aimed at eliminating the supply of economic resources to criminal and terrorist organizations. Together with its bilateral and multilateral partners, Colombia had for many years been aiming its efforts at eradicating coca crops. Although much remained to be done, significant results had been achieved.

32. The promotion of alternative programmes was key to the sustained eradication of illicit crops. Such programmes were effective and offered the added benefits of eradicating poverty and protecting the environment and forestry resources in the affected areas. The success of such programmes should encourage international development agencies, international banks and donor countries to make a firm political commitment, which should be translated into greater access to funding mechanisms and microcredit and the creation of a more favourable economic environment which would make it possible for the products of such programmes to access global markets.

33. Because the global drug problem affected all countries and peoples of the world, the international community must maintain the political will to eradicate the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, as well

as the demand for such drugs, in order to ensure a better, healthier world for future generations.

34. **Mr. Dejoie** (Haiti), speaking on agenda items 106 and 107, said that his country's Transitional Government remained concerned at the problem of illicit drug trafficking throughout the world. Despite the efforts of Governments, the demand for narcotic drugs continued to rise. Criminal organizations were becoming increasingly sophisticated and continued to defy the efforts of the world's intelligence services.

35. Because of its precarious socio-economic situation, its geographical location and the inadequacy of its police force, Haiti was becoming an ideal transit space for criminal organizations. In response, the Transitional Government had adopted a series of measures to strengthen the national police force, reform the judiciary and combat corruption and money-laundering, working closely with United Nations agencies based in the country. It had also launched a transition strategy aimed at consolidating the police force. Despite the arrest of several notorious drug traffickers in 2004 and 2005, the national police force was understaffed, and the narcotics-drugs unit was too small to be deployed on a national basis. On the positive side, coordination among the country's various drug units had improved, and efforts to prosecute traffickers in court were proving more successful.

36. The Government continued to strengthen laws aimed at eradicating crimes related to drug trafficking, and Haiti had ratified both the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA). On the demand side, the lack of precise data on drug consumption continued to hamper decision-making. With the help of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Government had initiated a survey on drug use in its schools, the results of which would be available in January 2006. Haiti welcomed the support provided by CICAD and its Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) to strengthen anti-drug agencies in the southern hemisphere.

37. *Mr. Butagira (Uganda), Chairman, resumed the Chair.*

38. **Mr. Lafiaji** (Nigeria), speaking on agenda items 106 and 107, said that the escalation in organized crime, including drug trafficking and money-laundering, was a matter of serious concern to his country, and required a coordinated response at the national and international levels. Although Nigeria was not a drug-producing country, its territory had been used to facilitate the passage of narcotic drugs from Latin America and Asia to markets in Europe and the United States. Although there was only a small user population in Nigeria, the Government had implemented a national anti-drug campaign, involving all branches of government, in an effort to prevent the situation from deteriorating.

39. The campaign had led to a significant reduction in the number of traffickers using Nigeria for transit purposes. Furthermore, the West African Joint Operations (WAJO) initiative had been launched in 2003, in an effort to thwart traffickers who had transferred their operations to neighbouring countries. The initiative had improved the exchange of intelligence and cross-border operations within the subregion. The importance of training to successful drug enforcement could not be overemphasized. In collaboration with UNODC, Nigeria had set up an international training centre which had developed several training programmes.

40. Nigeria was a party to all United Nations drug-control conventions, and used the import-export authorization system for all internationally controlled substances intended for legitimate medical and scientific purposes. Moreover, the main laws on drug trafficking and abuse had made the forfeiture of the property of convicted drug offenders an integral part of its anti-narcotics effort. Nigeria had also strengthened its efforts to prevent drug use and to reduce demand, and had set up a special investigations unit which was responsible for screening parcels entering and leaving the country.

41. The Government had set up mechanisms to combat money-laundering, including steps to strengthen the country's financial investigation capacity and enhance the inspection of banking operations. However, its efforts would not succeed unless it received cooperation from the country's development partners, in whose banks such funds were ultimately deposited. Nigeria would actively support bilateral and multilateral efforts to counter trafficking in persons. It had signed bilateral memorandums of understanding with Italy and Benin, and was exploring the possibility of entering into similar relationships with other countries. At the national level, the

Government had introduced the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons Act, which made trafficking in persons a criminal offence and provided severe penalties for offenders.

42. **Mr. Gill** (India), speaking on agenda items 106 and 107, said that India supported the integrated approach of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism and encouraged it to continue with its ongoing programme of operational transformation. There was an urgent need to recast drug and crime policies into a broader development mould, based on the promotion of justice and good governance, and India welcomed UNODC initiatives in that direction. The close nexus between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money-laundering, illegal arms transactions and the illegal movement of nuclear, chemical and biological material posed a serious threat to international security and required careful monitoring. The terrorist attacks suffered by India over the past few years had not only caused huge loss of life, but had also seriously affected jobs, economic opportunities, development efforts and infrastructure. India had taken extensive measures, and concluded bilateral and regional arrangements, to combat terrorism. Recalling that the 2005 World Summit Outcome reflected the international community's joint resolve to fight terrorism, he said that there was no better institutional setting than the United Nations for providing cohesion and vigour to such efforts. As an initiator of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, India was fully committed to the decision by heads of State and Government to conclude negotiations on the convention in the early part of the sixtieth session.

43. India welcomed the Bangkok Declaration of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, particularly its call for countries to work together on extradition and mutual legal assistance and to combat cybercrime. India was a signatory of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, and was taking steps towards their ratification. Moreover, it had concluded bilateral agreements with several countries with a view to developing joint programmes to combat terrorism, money-laundering and organized crime. India's already strong domestic legislation on the matter had been further strengthened with the enactment of its Money-Laundering Act. There was also an urgent need to enhance the capacities of the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch, the role of which was particularly important.

44. According to the World Drug Report 2005, some 200 million people — or 5 per cent of the world's population age 15-64 — had used drugs at least once in the last 12 months. While global coca cultivation and cocaine manufacture had declined steadily since 1999, global illicit opium production and amphetamine-type stimulants were on the increase. Trafficking was also on the rise. The international community must act early to prevent the menace from posing even greater risks to the social and economic fabric of the countries affected. India was fully committed to the Political Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The Narcotic Control Bureau of India had achieved significant success in recent years in drug seizures, counter-trafficking, interdiction and investigation, and illicit crop destruction. However, national efforts alone were not sufficient to address the drug problem. Bilateral, regional and international cooperation was also essential. Treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance and other specific arrangements were essential to support efforts to eradicate drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism. The emerging area of law-enforcement cooperation was particularly important.

45. **Mr. Thapa** (Nepal), speaking on agenda items 106 and 107, said that Nepal attached great importance to the work of UNODC. Transnational organized crime — particularly terrorism — threatened international peace, security and development, caused massive loss of life and property, and threatened the fabric of civilized society across the world. Such crimes not only disrupted the efforts of Member States in the area of development, peace and justice, but also misguided young people towards crime. Though intended to promote international economic growth and development, globalization had helped criminals expand their networks worldwide. In that regard, Nepal was committed to working with other States in order to defeat the activities of transnational organized criminal groups.

46. His Government was also committed to combating corruption, which seriously affected development efforts in developing countries by eating up their resources and undermining their stability. At

the national level, his Government had launched an anti-corruption drive and empowered national institutions to take severe action against corruption. Good governance was one of the four pillars of the current five-year national development plan. As a party to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others and its Final Protocol of 1950, Nepal condemned all forms of trafficking and called on the international community to protect the victims of trafficking by providing them with shelter, helping them return home and treating them humanely. Nepal was also concerned about the serious threat of narcotic drugs to public health, safety and the well-being of people, particularly young people. As a party to international drug control treaties, including the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Nepal emphasized the need for demand reduction, supply control, prevention and treatment, and called on the international community and the United Nations to continue to provide financial and technical assistance to complement national counter-narcotics efforts. His Government also reiterated its utmost resolve to combat terrorism at all levels. In that regard, Nepal had extended its cooperation to the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch and was carefully studying those international anti-terrorism instruments to which it was not yet a party. His delegation took note of the outcome of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and urged the international community to take coherent measures to implement the recommendations contained in the Bangkok Declaration. Lastly, his delegation urged the international community to extend its support to the least developed countries in order to strengthen national institutional capacity and regulatory frameworks and to join hands to defeat the social evils crippling national development efforts.

47. **Mr. Israeli** (Israel), speaking on agenda item 107, said that Israel shared the global concern over illicit drug use, which it was taking active steps to combat. Regional and international cooperation on drug trafficking was necessary to prevent further violence. On that basis, Israel was a party to various conventions and treaties on narcotic drugs, including the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and to the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs s
2004. Israel was fully committed to the target dat
2008 established at the twentieth special session. D
trafficking posed a major strategic th
internationally. Throughout the world, terro
organizations used drug trafficking networks to exec
their goals. A concerted effort was required, includ
information- and intelligence-sharing, pooling
resources and cooperation on enforcement. Realiz
that regional as well as international cooperation
required, Israel wished to partner more closely with
Arab neighbours. It had been pursuing partnersh
with other States in the Middle East for several ye
and hoped that the regional meeting of UNO
scheduled to take place by the end of 2005, wo
enhance such cooperation.

48. On the domestic front, Israel's Anti-D
Authority (IADA) had developed a series
programmes aimed at reducing drug-related violence
the country by as much as 40 per cent. The guid
philosophy behind such efforts was that alcohol
illicit drug abuse was a major cause of violen
Research had shown that 60 per cent of world viole
was committed by individuals under the influence
alcohol and other drugs. Israel had therefore made
priority to address the issue, adopting a comprehens
approach to drug prevention, treatment, deterrence
enforcement which involved a system-wide ef
among Government bodies. In addition, w
considering the diversity of Israeli citizens, s
programmes targeted specific groups on the basis
ethnicity, primary language and culture. The main a
of IADA in recent years had been to increase pu
awareness of the dangers of drug abuse; develop
implement prevention, treatment and rehabilitat
programmes for various target groups; offer d
awareness and prevention training programmes
teachers, nurses and medical professionals;
cooperate with regional and international stakeholde

49. **Mr. Hyassat** (Jordan), speaking on agenda ite
106 and 107, said that crime prevention and crim
justice were indispensable factors for social growth
that regard, Jordan wished to provide the grea
possible measure of security and stability for
people, establishing the rule of law and an indepen
judiciary and achieving crime prevention thro
awareness campaigns, with the cooperation of c
society and all interested organizations. Prevent

crime and combating terrorism, money-laundering and organized crime required international cooperation, particularly in the area of information exchange and technical assistance. He hoped that the results of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would be reflected in practical measures to tackle all forms of crime, in particular the more recent forms.

50. Jordan had adopted stringent measures to curb corruption and prevent its negative effects on society, setting up an independent body to coordinate the work of all relevant bodies, developing a strategy to combat and eliminate corruption and reviewing all its legislation on corruption and the relevant bodies. Jordan was preparing to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which it was pleased to note would enter into force at the end of 2005. With regard to drug trafficking, Jordan welcomed the successes achieved at every level and would pursue its cooperation with all bodies to protect society and raise awareness, in particular among young people and children, with the support of the national councils for youth and for the family. Curative efforts, meanwhile, were coordinated between the Ministries of Health and Social Development and the anti-drug administration, in order to provide services for drug addicts with a view to their social reintegration.

51. **Ms. Halabi** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking on agenda items 106 and 107, said that urgent solutions were needed to eliminate the dangers of drugs. The Syrian Arab Republic had adhered to all international drug trafficking instruments and was a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It had concluded bilateral agreements on drug trafficking information exchange with several neighbouring countries. It was also stepping up national measures to tackle drug abuse, particularly among children and young people, through implementation of demand reduction policies and programmes, including research on all drugs under international control, in order to raise awareness and continue to develop demand reduction policies. Her Government also applied severe penalties to the perpetrators of drug-related crime. According to statistics, for every million persons, 127 were drug users, with the lowest number being among under 18-year-olds. The Syrian Arab Republic had set up rehabilitation and treatment centres for drug addicts, but was neither a producing country nor a transit country.

52. The Syrian Arab Republic was a party to most international crime prevention instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two of its Protocols, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. It was also working on a bilateral and multilateral level with most Arab countries and other States, particularly with regard to extradition and international standards on money-laundering and investment in criminal activities. The Syrian Arab Republic had also succeeded to the Arab Convention on Judicial Cooperation and the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism. Her Government cooperated closely with UNODC and appreciated the work of its Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa. In that regard, she appealed for its resources to be stepped up to enable it to fulfil its mandate more effectively. Action by the United Nations would not be effective without real political will to tackle drug production, consumption and trafficking.

55. **Mr. Toro Jimenez** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), speaking on agenda item 107, said that the problem of drugs and drug trafficking was a crime against humanity which affected the weakest sectors of society. For that reason, it required a whole-hearted commitment by all international stakeholders, in keeping with the principle of shared responsibility and a comprehensive and balanced approach. Venezuela had stepped up action and cooperation by establishing internal and international mechanisms, both bilateral and multilateral, that strengthened the immediate response to the challenges raised by drugs. However, authorities in drug-consuming countries should take decisive action so that efforts to control production could be effective. Without consumption there would be no production or trafficking. The primary responsibility therefore lay with the drug consumers living in the first world, where social decline and the weakening of the family had significantly increased drug use. While reaffirming the importance of international cooperation and assistance against illicit drug use, production and trafficking, his delegation emphasized that no cooperation agreement on counter-narcotics should contravene the principles established in the Charter or in international law, particularly territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of another State.